

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED FY2007 BUDGET)**

**May 3, 2006**

**6:30 PM**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Roy.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil,  
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest (late)

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2007 municipal budget, the proposed Community Improvement Program for the Fiscal Year 2007 to 2012 period in accordance with the procedures established in RSA 44:10, and in satisfaction of any other local, state or federal law that may apply. Mayor Guinta notes that the Clerk shall present the resolutions, the subject of which contain all of the appropriations presented proposed, following which a brief presentation may be made and public comments will be heard.

The Clerk presented the proposed Resolutions:

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Airport Authority the sum of \$52,321,042 from Special Airport Revenue Funds for Fiscal Year 2007.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Parking Fund the sum of \$6,603,825 from Parking for the Fiscal Year 2007.”

“A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$2,968,193 from Recreation User Charges to the Recreation Division for Fiscal Year 2007.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester School District the sum of \$143,000,000 for the Fiscal Year 2007.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester School Food and Nutrition Services Program the sum of \$5,537,900 from School Food and Nutrition Services Revenues for Fiscal Year 2007.”

“A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$16,664,386 from Sewer User Rental Charges to the Environmental Protection Division for Fiscal Year 2007.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Transit Authority the sum of \$1,100,000 for the Fiscal Year 2007.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Central Business Service District the sum of \$244,000 from Central Business Service District Funds for Fiscal Year 2007.”

“Appropriating all Incremental Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue Received by the City in Fiscal Year 2007 and held in the Civic Center Fund, for the payment of the City’s Obligations in Said Fiscal Year Under the Financing Agreement.”

“Raising Monies and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2007.”

“Approving the Community Improvement Program for 2007, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program.”

Mayor Guinta stated I just want to make a quick brief statement. First of all let me welcome you all to the public hearing and thank you all for coming. I think it is important that myself and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Board of School Committee hear from the residents of the community that are being affected and impacted by the tax rate in the City and the decisions that are being made as a result of the budget proposals. This Board has about another six weeks before it takes a final vote on the budget in the second week of June. We do have obviously a lot of people here who want to speak. We have allowed each person to speak for three minutes. If you could please keep your comments to the three minutes so we can allow everyone in the room an opportunity to speak. We will be here very late this evening and we are certainly happy to do that but once you hear the Clerk let you know that the time is up if you could please just be aware of the fact that we have so many people who do want to speak. With that what the Clerk will do is call each person. When you do come down to one of the microphones if you could give your full name and your address in a clear and loud voice so that we can record that properly. You will have one opportunity to speak for three minutes and we will also, if there have been any written comments provided I think up until 3 PM today in the Clerk’s Office that will be entered into the record as well and if there are those who would like to speak a second time on a topic that has not been discussed you will have that opportunity after the first round of speaking. So again thank you for coming. Let’s try to let everyone speak and if we can keep it to that three-minute rule I would appreciate it. I will now have the Clerk read the first person.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I will add to that that we have asked everybody to turn their cell phones off in order to not interfere with the proceedings this evening and because there are so many people signed up we typically name three names in a row so that gives people the opportunity to get down towards the microphones from wherever they are and it will keep the process moving.

Maxine Mosley, 76 Sherburne Street, Manchester stated:

I am an employee of the Manchester School District. I work at McLaughlin Middle School as a school counselor. I must say that I am very saddened by the state of affairs that we are in once again. We have nothing more precious than our children and ignorance is something

that you cannot put a pricetag on. The strides that we have made in the Manchester School District over the last six years have been phenomenal. We have added programs and staff to help reduce class size, to bring in up-to-date textbooks to improve our curriculum, to work on alternative programming for those high-risk students that otherwise would be in the dropout rate and we have reduced our dropout rate. Working at the middle school, I can see how effectively the alternative program has worked for my students. Being a school counselor for 26 years has proven to show a lot of kids will not make it to high school if they cannot make it through middle school. Reducing the programs we are talking about such as kindergarten means that we are only going to increase our dropout rate in Manchester. What is concerning is that we are a District In Need of Improvement. If, in fact, the District is not funded at the amount that they have asked for and to be quite frank as a taxpayer I am also concerned about my taxes going up, however, this School District Administration and the School Board have proven to be very prudent over the last few years and good fiscal managers. I personally believe the money they are asking for is the money they need for us to educate our children. I would ask you to reconsider what you are allocating to the Manchester School District to take care of our children and our future because we cannot afford an ignorant society. Thank you.

Phil Doherty, 718 Smyth Road, Manchester stated:

I am going to speak to a very specific point tonight and that is the Human Resources budget and specifically the Security Manager's position within the City. I was, I am retired now, but I was a police officer for 25 years in the City and I have a good deal of knowledge of what happens and has happened over the years and since 1999 when that position was created by Mayor Wieczorek the security in City buildings and schools has increased dramatically and there is a strong need for that. As of today there is probably \$1.5 million worth of security equipment that has been purchased and is being used in the City. It needs somebody to manage that program. You can't just take it and parcel it out among different departments. It is a very specific technical area and requires a great deal of expertise. I would suggest that that is a very poor idea. The current City Security Manager, by bringing in a number of grants has probably brought in over \$500,000 to the program. Parcel that out since 1999 when he has been the Security Manager it's a wash. You basically got a security manager for nothing. Look forward. Things are going to get better in security. You need somebody with the expertise and the knowledge. You can't take that...it can't be handed to the Highway Department and based on my experience it shouldn't be handed to the Police Department. They are two different functions – law enforcement and security. They don't belong together. They work together but they don't belong together as one particular department. Thank you very much.

Catherine Morrison, 35 Andrew Street, Manchester stated:

Once again the City is looking to decrease the budget that will cut a lot of the programs that have been added over the last several years. Our District is currently a District In Need of Improvement, which means we need to improve our test scores. How is it that we are going

to make these improvements if we increase the class sizes and cut programs that are geared to at risk students? If the proposed budget goes through, we in the middle schools will be put in danger and at risk students with no alternative programs. Many of the students that we service have JPO's, Juvenile Probation Officers, and trackers who check in with them on a daily basis. If this is the type of student that we have, then making larger class sizes and cutting services such as STAY, TAP, Ombudsman that help the at risk students will only make our jobs more dangerous. I have worked for Manchester for the past nine years and give a lot of myself to my school to help make improvements. I have always been willing to give of myself and spend hours of the day and night to make sure that we are successful in meeting the needs of our students. I make sure that I can help my students the best that I can. I help with fundraising, any fundraising I can do for the school, which includes running a magazine drive in the fall and a talent show in the spring to help bring money into our schools. This year we have looked at using the money to bring needed technology into our schools. I start my day at 7:15 AM with a news program, which two other teachers also volunteer to run. On most days I stay at school until 5 PM completing my work. We have written grants and asked for donations to find the supplies to run this program. I am not alone in what I do. Many people in the teaching profession do exactly what I do. It is an insult to our profession that we constantly have to explain the need for manageable class sizes for safety considerations and for supplies to run our classes. I do not see any other profession that has to fight so hard for their jobs as a teacher in Manchester does. I invite you all to shadow a middle school teacher for a day to see what it is like.

Ted Menswar, 130 Dwight Street, Manchester stated:

I am a retired employee of the Manchester School Department and a lifelong resident of the City of Manchester. I live with my wife, Karen, on Dwight Street in Ward 6. She is frustrated with me because I have been sitting at our computer for days writing and revising what I have to say here tonight. She said that I will be just one of many voices so you probably won't remember what I have got to say. That is exactly why I revised this 18 times because I don't want you to forget it. Why? Because the long-term impact of your eventual decision will linger long after your years of service to Manchester have ended. I am here tonight to speak not only in support of Manchester Community Television (MCTV) but also to address the precarious position in which you, your Honor, have put the Manchester School Department. Based on your recent budgetary actions, you have decided to include MCTV as part of the School Department, thereby causing it to rely on School Department funding for its operation. As you are obviously aware, that department is already experiencing a budgetary shortfall so to expect the monies will come from it is not just highly unlikely, it is simply yet importantly out of the question. Having spent 35 years as a teacher in this building I can easily remember the overcrowded classrooms, the shortage of textbooks and the poor condition of much of the equipment. As a result I certainly know first hand the importance of an appropriately funded school budget. Your plan not only results in the elimination of more than 50 teachers and administrators, it may also put MCTV out of business. To mandate the School Department to remove \$400,000 from its budget to fund

the operation of MCTV is to me unconscionable. To deprive it of that money is equivalent to eliminating at least nine possible teaching positions, approximating \$50,000 in salary and benefits per teacher. From where I see it, it comes down to this. Keep MCTV or keep at least nine teachers and for you to suddenly put both the School Department and MCTV in such a position is inexcusable. If you are wondering why, as a former teacher, I am equally concerned about the possible elimination of MCTV, let me explain. I watched a wide variety of its public programming and though some may disagree, I believe the content of Channel 16 and 22 is as important as anything on commercial television and sometimes more. More than a casual observer, I have been a direct participant. I have been involved with the sport of baseball practically my entire life. For a period of time I wanted to give back some of my accumulated knowledge, 53 years worth to be exact, to the youth of Manchester by making a series of instructional videos particularly relevant to pitching that I hoped would be a benefit. I am aware that there is a lot of material already out there to help a player learn the game but like everything else most of it is very expensive. While the three videos we have completed to date have each received positive feedback from coaches, parents and kids, what pleased me the most was that the instruction and information was free. With the expert tutelage and direction provided by station manager Jason Cote, MCTV provided me with the opportunity to accomplish what had been a long time dream as it has done for many other novices like me. As a long time cable subscriber, I believe funding for public access TV should be through payment of my cable bill. It should not be provided at the expense of an already underfunded School Department. The elimination of MCTV, even temporarily, would deny the general public the opportunity to view many important and valuable programs. In fact, if MCTV had already cease existence, the people of our City would have been denied the opportunity to view the taping of this vitally important town meeting tonight. Knowing first hand the impact and important of Manchester Community Television, experiencing first hand the professionalism and proficiency of its staff and literally seeing the reward and results of personal commitment there is no way that eliminating MCTV can be justified. However, since the School Department has already allotted its funding, unless money from programming is reinstated from the general fund I don't see how it can possibly be avoided. Winners of numerous national and regional awards for its broadcast excellence and reaching more than 100,000 people, the programming content of Channels 16 and 22 keeps us up-to-date with what is happening in our community, including how our money is being spent. If MCTV were to cease existence then its most important responsibility would also end. That being to allow us to keep a collective watchful eye on all of you as you decide the future of Manchester. For that to disappear wouldn't just be a shame. As a former English teacher, true to my experience with Shakespeare, that would be a tragedy. While my concern lies chiefly with MCTV and the School Department, in looking at the overall effects that this budget will have I ask which of the three R's you will use to make your final decision – restrain, restrict and regret or review, revise and restore? Manchester's future lies in the direction your decision will take us. Lastly, remember me mentioning what my wife said? That you will forget all of this. Please, don't let her be right again. Those of you married gentlemen on the Board you know exactly what I am talking about.

Kate Covey, 191 Cody Street, Manchester stated:

I am an art teacher at McLaughlin Middle School. I have a lot of things to say and probably not a whole lot of time so in a nutshell I am a parent whose five children have attended Manchester schools. The youngest is a junior at Memorial. I have been through a lot of the schools and I have seen the good, the bad and the ugly. The good teachers, the bad class sizes – 30 or 32 at the elementary level. No chairs in the high school chemistry classes. No books. No paper. It is a travesty. Ugly schools in total disrepair. They need more than just ceilings. They need chairs for the students to sit on. The cafeteria tables have broken seats and not enough for the students. I have been in Manchester teaching for seven years and I took a cut in pay to come here. I am asking myself why now. I am seeing the change firsthand in the schools. The face of Manchester is changing. The diversity is changing and you need to keep that in mind because with that diversity we have a lot of needs and these children need a lot of support. More now than ever, especially when we are trying to make AYP and we have the No Child Left Behind to deal with. We can't afford to lose valuable programs such as the STAY program, which I have seen first hand students in that program succeeding and their grades increasing, some from below a D average to a B or B+. Keep that in mind when you reconsider our budget. An overwhelming number of teachers, especially in workshops that I have been in, have cited the need for alternative programs for these at risk students and yet your budget will cut them. These programs work and their success is amazing. These kids stay in school because of the programs. As a taxpayer, I know that tax cuts and decreases do not work. I don't want an increase anymore than the next person but modest increases work over time. Tax cuts do not. We are just starting to get our schools on track. We got the schools back in some sort of a livable condition. We need to educate the future, not cut it. Also as an art teacher I can't tell you how much the fine arts teachers appreciate their administrator, Chris Martin. She does a lot of work for us. She promotes our programs and she gives us whatever we need when she is capable of doing so and she supports her staff and for that I am truly grateful. Please reconsider when you are looking at your dollar amounts. Thank you.

Christine Martin, 518 Holly Avenue, Manchester stated:

I am the Director of Fine Arts in the finest School District in the state. I am not going to talk against anything tonight because that is inappropriate in my view. We are in the house that Mirabile built. We are in Arthur Mirabile's home here and some of you didn't know Arthur. Mayor you would have loved him. He was what every teacher...he had the qualities that I look for in every teacher that I hire. He was my reason for teaching and more importantly he taught us how to be wonderful human beings. I think about Arthur a lot in my job. I think about Arthur because was a great leader. He was a man willing to listen and compromise and work towards understanding. I try really hard to understand in my work – understand my teacher's and student's needs and champion those needs. I want to talk a little bit about numbers because I feel like some things have been misrepresented. You mentioned, Mayor, at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast and other places that 61% of our School District

budget was geared towards direct student services. That is a correct statement based on a report here to the State of NH. However, that does not include school principals. School principals make up 5% of that budget. It also does not include what we call instructional support services. People like Maxine Mosley who are guidance counselors. I can't think of people who are more important to student services than guidance counselors who help them with their difficult issues. We also neglected to mention bussing, which makes up 3% of our budget and food. I don't eat cafeteria food. The kids do and that is 4%. If I add all of that together I get 80% directed toward student services and 20% towards other. In regards to District Office, district administrative services, this is the state report, says 3% out of the budget. I think what we need to do is check our ego at the door – all of us. Let's check our egos at the door and ask the big question. How is this budget going to positively impact student learning? Every day I ask myself that question. This decision, how is that going to positively impact student learning? I have to tell you that if you remove some of the administrative services in the District who is going to do that job? It is going to trickle down into the schools. There is no question about it. I am all for accountability. I own a property here in Manchester. I don't do the happy skip when my tax bill comes in but I am willing to pay to live in this community. I am willing to pay for public services that are well done. I can tell you and I can't speak for the other departments because I am not an expert in Highway but I am an expert in the field of education and I have been a Manchester teacher for 15 years of my life and an administrator for 3 and I wouldn't teach or administer in any other district in this state. I want you to think about that and think about compromise and any time you want data, real data about educational research and student assessment, don't be afraid to stop by. I am extension 203. I will share everything I know with you. It would be my pleasure. Thank you.

Gavin Mitchell, 62 Ferry Street, Manchester stated:

Honorable Mayor Guinta and esteemed Aldermen, I go to Parkside Middle School and attend the STAY program. Schooling is very important and STAY is important to so many people. It helps us kids bring up our grade point averages and it helps us become the leaders of tomorrow. If you cut our budget there will be no more STAY or any other program that helps us raise our grades. Also it is a very bad thing if you cut the Library budget. I depend on the Library constantly along with so many others who appreciate a good book or a movie. I understand that cutting taxes is important but I hope you will find another way to do it.

Juan Santiago, 26 Payson Street, Manchester stated:

I attend Southside Middle School. Since I have been in the STAY program it has helped me a lot. I know this sounds weird but I met Miss O'Brien when I got into the STAY program at a lunch detention and since then I have been doing better and I haven't been getting into that much trouble. The STAY program helps so many people. I think if I hadn't met Miss O'Brien that day I wouldn't have been on all these trips that she takes us on and I probably wouldn't have gotten a YMCA membership and I wouldn't have met all of my friends like Brittany and Amanda and Robert and everyone that is in my class. It is so important. I think

that if the STAY program were to be lost the worst thing that I would think about is kids dropping out of school. I am doing good and I hope a lot of kids are doing good but I really don't want kids to drop out because I really think about that. Leading up to this day I have been really thinking about that and all of those kids who have really been helped. I just want to help them so I hope you guys don't cut the budget for the STAY program. Thank you for your time.

Brittany Paquette, 216 Beech Street, Manchester stated:

I am going to tell you what the STAY program has done for me. I love the STAY program very much and I don't know what I would do if it got shut down or anything because of what is going on. People judge me for how old I am or my size and stuff like that but I just think I am really smart. I don't know math, I know that but I do know what is going on right now and I think that is good enough for me. Miss O'Brien is my favorite teacher and I just don't want her to like get fired. She is like my mom. I was going to say what I wrote but it is not that easy. I just thank you guys for listening to me. I know I didn't say much but please don't cut it down or anything because I really love this and I think I have been doing much better in math. I at least get three problems right instead of none now. Thank you for listening.

Eddie Gardner, 385 Union Street, Manchester stated:

I am here on behalf of the McLaughlin STAY class. It improved by attendance by 28 days and helped me go from a 2.2 GPA to a 2.6. As somebody in my class said, we need the support for our schools and students because the STAY program has helped me a lot. I went from F's to B's and if you don't support us now you don't support our future.

Vinnie Zenni, 260 Spruce Street, Manchester stated:

I think it is important to keep STAY because it has really helped me a lot. We need more support because we need to make sure that STAY is here next year. STAY made me into a better person and a better student. I believe that I am a great leader now because of STAY. Thank you for your time.

Zachary Alden, 73 Pennacook Street, Manchester stated:

I think STAY has improved my grades from D's to B's and a GPA of 1.8 to a 2.8. As another person in my class said I think it is important to keep STAY because it has really helped me a lot. We need more support because we need to make sure that STAY is here next year. STAY made me into a better person and a better student. I believe I am a great leader now because of STAY.

Sonja Croteau, 564 Lake Avenue, Manchester stated:

I just wanted to tell you what the STAY program has done for me. It has helped me improve my grades and it has made me more self-confident. Another student from my class said she



feels we need more support for STAY and other programs because she went from a 2.5 GPA to a 3.8 GPA. Thank you.

Siobhan Dupaul, 145 Irwin Drive, Manchester stated:

I am a teacher at Beech Street School and I would like to read a letter from one of our students:

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Hello, I am a fifth grader at Beech Street School. I read the newspaper about the budget cut. I do not agree with what you are doing. You should be giving our schools more money not taking money out of our schools. I may only be a young girl but I still have an opinion. Here are reasons why you shouldn't take money from our education: if you fire our teachers, where will they work? They will have to go to other schools. We will lose them. The classrooms will have more kids in them and we will not learn as much. My class has 25 kids right now. We will not have as much one-on-one time with our teacher. Without all teachers we won't learn as much as we did this year. We don't have walls and doors and need money to build them. If I had money, I would pay for them. Please don't take away sports because what else am I going to do after school. Please, please listen to us kids. Listen to what we have to say. We are important to.

s/Amanda

Mayor, you are all for public safety but who are the people committing the crimes? The undereducated. These kids want a good education. They want to feel safe so let's start with the children and create a better, safer future.

Peter Cooke, 47 Corriveau Drive, Hooksett stated:

I would like to talk to you about the lottery of birth. To me the lottery of birth relates to who your parents are, what country you live in or where you came from. It also relates to what city you live in and what state you live in. I think we all know that sometimes the lottery of birth can be very unkind to us. My whole premise is that I don't think anybody ought to be victimized by who their parents are, where they come from, or what city or what school district they live in. That is the lottery of birth. I really believe that in this world where things aren't equal, things ought to be equal or at least we ought to do something about it in the education level. I don't think any kid or child should be disadvantaged because of the lottery of birth. Now this particularly relates to having a stimulating education and I use the word stimulating for a reason and I will come back to that. Athletics, music and art. I think what we need to do is give our kids a level playing field where nobody is advantaged and nobody is disadvantaged and strive towards that. Now in terms of what I do, I am a professional development trainer. I also work on the Business Education Committee at the Chamber of Commerce here in Manchester and also I am Chairperson of the Diversity Committee for the District in Need of Improvement. I feel very, very integrated because in all of these facets I find myself very often working towards trying to help the disadvantaged and this is one reason I am here tonight because I think that the budget potentially is not going to be doing this. We have to really take a long hard look at whether or not this is the right thing. Now I know everyone in this room is fair and just but I really wonder out loud how our budget can be fair and just if we are going to have overcrowded classrooms and less

or no art, music or athletics. Now how is that fair or just? It is not. If you think about it, in that environment what is going to happen is the wealthy are going to go out and buy the music lessons. They are going to buy the art and put their kid into some sort of athletic league somewhere. But what about the kid who is going to school where everything he has and every opportunity he ever faces is in that school? For a lot of kids that is exactly the fact and this would definitely hurt those kids more than anybody else. I am also concerned about the City. Being on the Chamber of Commerce's Business Education Committee I have learned that the Chamber, along with a lot of other good organizations is about growing the City so I am worried about that because I don't think this is going to be growing the City. Last but not least, the children's bill of rights. If you walk out into this hallway and I noticed it coming in here tonight and this is my last sentence, there is hanging on the wall there a children's bill of rights and it has about eight things on it. I am going to just read two. One is the right to an education. I don't think anything that is going to happen here tonight is going to impact on the right to have an education. The second point, however, is the right to have a stimulating education. I think this budget will not allow for a stimulating education and that is the children's bill of rights on there right now and I think if we go through with this proposal we are going to have to take off the last item.

Frank Malik, 215 Gray Street, Manchester stated:

I am a retired City teacher. I had 37 years in the system. I have worked at all of the levels – high school, junior high, elementary and special needs students. I am here this evening to ask you please do not cut MCTV monies out of our program. In 2001 I was a very proud grandfather. My grandson represented with the rest of the players from East Little League a chance to go to the Babe Ruth Regionals. While down there he became infatuated with ESPN buildings. Coming back he said gramps I know what I want to do. I want to be a radio broadcast or television analyst. He completely took me by shock. I let the wheels start turning and said who can I go and see where he could start in a program like this. I went to a hockey game one night and they said talk to Mr. Jason Cote. I gave him a call and he came down and within two days we were mapping out strategies for him. He did his first color basketball game with no experience whatsoever. Some mistakes were there – the high voice and quick to talk and trying to analyze what the other coach might be trying to do but it was fun. The second week he became much more polished. While going to the school I would see a lot of my ex-students. Most of them who had a difficult time in school. Some who had dropped out but came back. I saw the smiling happy faces when I entered the doors at MCTV and I was amazed. My grandson now is applying to about 20 different schools. He has one more year left. He hopes to play baseball also at the school he is going to. Mr. Cote I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to get him into a program of this type. My last one is a quick one. I have also been a coach in the City for 53 years. Ted Menswar who came up, Ted was one of my ball players. I coached him back in 1952. I think both of us have done a good job. My concern being a coach is for the less fortunate boys and girls who do not have the athletic skills. Entering freshman year it is a big, big world and easy to get sucked up by you know what is out on the streets. Please do not drop the freshman

football or basketball programs. These students that are underachievers will have no place to go. They have a place to go right now with our athletic facilities and our coaches and believe me there are a lot of great coaches out there and people don't know what they do outside of coaching. Thank you very much.

Linda Houle, 781 Hevey Street, Manchester stated:

I am here on a personal level. I am here to beseech you to reconsider the School District budget. I am one of the 14.5 positions...if the budget isn't passed I am gone at the end of June. I have worked for the City for eight years. I am dedicated. I work with a bunch of dedicated people. I can't tell you how many times we go in and we work past what we get paid for and we do it with great pride. There are so many things going on in our City with the revitalization. As a single parent when I moved to Manchester the first thing I looked for was a good school because my daughter's education was a priority. I found the school I wanted and I moved in that school's jurisdiction. I am glad to say that she graduated West High and just recently graduated from Keene State College to become a viable member of the community working two jobs in the City to make ends meet. As an employee of the District there are so many positions that are so vital that are going to be cut. We were told in a staff meeting a few weeks ago if we don't get the budget we need we are going to have to cut here in the Administration building. We all thought this will never happen. Well I am here to say the last two weeks all I have been reading in the paper and been hearing bantered about is Manchester School District using scare tactics and Manchester School District crying wolf and Manchester School District playing games. This is not a scare tactic. This is not a game. This is the reality of 14.5 positions within that building. If I could right now I would like to ask anybody in this room and I know a lot got shoved to the cafeteria but if you are with the School District please stand for a moment. We are all hardworking, dependable employees. We are proud of our jobs. We are human beings with families to support and feel we are all, even though we may be little, we are all vital spokes in the efficiency of running a good school district. I thank you for your time and I beseech you from the bottom of my heart. My financial future is on the line. Please reconsider this budget and I am very proud to be a part and say that I am a School District employee. Thank you for your time.

Stacey Oikle, 44 Sherwood Drive, Manchester stated:

I am here tonight purely as a citizen with no alliance to any department but I see many cuts coming in my tax bill that are not going to benefit me but are going to come back to us in two years as cost increases as you take away the positions. As you eliminate these positions in the School Department and I have children that are through the system and also almost through it. One in college and on his way through medical school doing very well. So the school system here does work. It has gotten very good. I also see the Information Technology and Human Resources cuts that you are looking to make, which we are an information technology society. We have to outsource any of those cuts you make and that will come back in years to come for us to have to pay those bills. I would like to know Mr. Mayor have you spent time in all of these positions with all of these people that you are

looking to cut and understand what their jobs are? Understand what it is going to take to distribute their duties. I know as most business owners have many employees but sometimes they don't realize what everybody does and I am wondering if that isn't the case. If we don't realize what our teachers, our information technology, our human resources and our highway...all of those departments. I don't want tax increases as does anybody but I also don't want tax cuts that are going to hurt our society or our education or come back to get me in two years quite honestly. Finally in closing I do remember that when we did take the school custodian jobs away and decided to outsource that how that changed the schools and how that changed the overall feeling within the schools. It took a little piece of home away. It took a little pride that was in that position and we outsourced it. I honestly don't think that was a good thing so I have to think that these cuts that you are looking to make that the \$50 I am going to save or whatever it is is honestly not worth it and I hope you really relook at your budget. Thank you.

Harold Levine, 49 Hillcroft Road, Manchester stated:

First of all I want to congratulate Alderman Gatsas for the terrific job that he did chairing the Finance Committee. I watched it the last couple of weeks and it was very, very interesting. I found out more information this one-year than in many of the past years. I was very disappointed when our Superintendent of Schools appeared before the Finance Committee along with his Finance Officer. They were ill prepared and I don't know what they are trying to hide underneath the boards. It was just unbelievable. As a taxpayer and retired person I feel when it comes to budget cuts why are the scare tactics always starting with classroom teachers or if there are cuts in the school budget why the classroom teachers? Why not cut at the administrative level? Does this School District really need three different Superintendents? Do they need two or three Assistants? Cut these two or three people and you will save \$100,000 to \$200,000. The City should have an Athletic Director and eliminate the athletic person at each high school. You don't need all of these people collecting a salary and only teaching two classes per day at the high school level. One director should be making the calls, coordinating transportation, etc. These are just a few suggestions. Keep the teachers who are needed in the classroom. I also feel that the City of Manchester has an ordinance that they don't enforce. I blame the Aldermen and I blame the School Board for that. That all City vehicles should have a City decal on them. There are a lot of vehicles being hidden without decals and I think the worst offender is our School Department. It is about time the School Board starts looking into some of these things. Thank you.

Kelleigh Domaingue, 2 Blackberry Way, Manchester stated:

I am the Ward 12 representative to the Manchester School Board. For those of you who don't know me, I am an attorney in downtown Manchester, I am the co-founder of the Southern NH Women's Business Network, I am a Board member for the Manchester Young Professionals Network, I am active in numerous non-profit organizations and I was recently selected to be one of the top 40 most influential people under 40 in this community. I would

be none of these things if I was not first a 1996 graduate of Memorial High School. I am fortunate enough to be in the position that I am in today because of individuals like Ted Menswar, Arthur Adamakos who was principal when I was there, and all of the other teachers, administrators and educators that shaped me through music, through athletics and through academics. I plea with you tonight as a member of the community of Manchester and as someone who wants to have children and raise them in this town to look very carefully at the budget process for the School Department in this city. I remember being in classrooms when pipes were bursting during my French class and there was water everywhere. I remember glass shards on unkept recreational areas. I remember parking lots that were falling apart. I remember a school principal's office that had asbestos in the ceiling and I tell you we have come so far. Let's not back track 10 years.

Kevin Devine, 142 Fiske Street, Manchester stated:

I serve and have served for about 14 years as a member of the Library Board of Trustees. I want to preface my comments by saying that every citizen of Manchester is honored to be here tonight and to have your attention. You women and gentlemen of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and you, Mr. Mayor, I know are working under tremendous pressure to try and do the best you can for the City of Manchester and so are the people who are speaking here tonight. How about those kids? Wasn't that something? For those who worry about the future leadership, I think we are in good hands. The budget proposal before the Board this evening, however, we feel or at least I personally as a citizen of Manchester feel inflicts ill advised and unjustifiable punishment on the citizens of Manchester who use and rely on our City Library. We are blessed in this fine City of ours to have the largest public library in the entire state of NH. Our library is free to every citizen and resident of Manchester and to every business owner in Manchester and all of their employees and thousands and thousands of them use it every year. By state law embodied in RSA 202:A., the legislature of our state declared and I want to quote this "the public library is a valuable supplement to the formal system of free public education and as such deserves adequate financial support from the government at all levels." Our City Library is blessed to have a professional staff that is unparalleled in educational excellence and dedication to the learning potential of every Manchester resident. I urge the entire Board of Mayor and Aldermen to reject this unwise call for staff, for programs, and for operational eradication. The citizens of Manchester deserve more. Thank you.

Paul Crawford, 231 Merrimack Street, Manchester stated:

I am from Ward 4, hopefully the swing ward for education. I am here tonight to speak about the school budget and I am speaking because the budget is a morale document. It speaks about our hope and it speaks about our future and I am here to encourage the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to vote for our future and not for a momentary flash of finesse or campaign rhetoric. I am concerned about the kids that are at risk. I have worked 12 years at YDC and I have seen the kids at risk come through the doors there. They have all come through because of poor educational experiences. I am concerned about the wonderful program that

the Y is doing. I am concerned about the at risk program that is being held above Dunkin Donuts off of Concord Street. The Ombudsman program. I am concerned that these programs should be supported but I also know that the fallacy is that this is a flat line proposal of a budget. It isn't flat line if you take into consideration the rise in contractual agreements, the rise in energy, which means that actually it is a huge, huge budget difference and the only discretionary money that is there affects the students. So in conclusion I urge the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to fund the students and cut the politics.

Patricia Hart, 186 Bridge Street, Manchester stated:

I wanted to just touch on a couple of things but first of all when I first heard about these budget cutbacks I was kind of upset but then I was thinking you know most of the people on the Aldermanic Board are pretty great people. As a matter of fact I wanted to thank George Smith for that move he made to preserve Gill Stadium for the kids and the 10 Aldermen that backed you on that because I couldn't have agreed with you more. I was hoping along those lines that you would reconsider funding MCTV in the budget. Fourteen years ago I was one of the first directors that was working in the schools with MCTV and video programs in the high school. I can tell you it is truly a teaching tool. There have been so many kids that have won awards both nationally and in the state, along with the producers at MCTV that it is just unbelievable that somehow it hasn't been funded. I was hoping that you would keep that in mind to kind of stop the shenanigans or whatever is going on because that is a true success story. That program was born from a teacher in a classroom who had the wherewithal and the ability to get it going and then took all of the kids with her and now the community gets the benefit in many, many ways. I have noticed over time that occasionally some people have great ideas and they have the ability to get them started and other people want to come in and possess them or take them over but in this instance MCTV is just an unbelievable learning tool and I think that it should be funded. If it needs to be cut from the general fund then it probably should be done gradually over time maybe in increments. One year \$100,000 cut and one year maybe \$200,000. The money was removed so it can probably be found to replace it. It is a little discouraging because it is the absolute best case scenario where a teacher can come up with a concept and then take it right into hyperspace and it is cutting edge in education as well. That is where a whole generation of people live – in video and television and film and it provides a great opportunity for a lot of the kids. One other little item. The Director of Fine Arts position that is threatened to be cut because of the funding, its like Manchester really should be putting on a Director of Visual Arts and a Director of Performing Arts because all of the research on child development and learning indicates that visual arts and performing arts, the earlier a child is exposed to it the better they do and throughout their life it helps them put the pieces together as they grow from elementary to high school. So if you could reconsider the funding of that and maybe put on the mindset that as Manchester is growing in population so too should schools grow to keep up with the great programs we have. Thank you.

Michael Pellerin, 12 Commercial Court, Auburn stated:

I work for a company called Pelmac Industries and we are one of the companies that provides security services to the City of Manchester through the competitive bidding process. Mr. Red Robidas is Manchester's Security Officer, a position that has been in place prior to 9/11 and may soon be eliminated. I think it would be a mistake to abolish this position. In as much as it is practical and the responsibility of the City to protect its employees and property, Mr. Robidas has been doing this. He is in large part responsible for the design of many of the security systems in the City buildings such as all of the public schools including the parking garage at Central, the Water Works Department, the Water Treatment Plant, Fire and Police Departments, City Hall, etc. Many of these projects were done at no cost to the City because Mr. Robidas was able to obtain grants from Homeland Security saving the City close to \$5 million. The most recent project to fall under this category is the camera coverage that is surrounding the Verizon civic center in the City of Manchester. That was done at no charge to the City. Now you might say to yourself who cares and why should this affect me. Here is why it may affect you. The systems that Mr. Robidas is having put in are not only protecting people and property, but these systems may prevent an action that could cost the City a small fortune in legal fees, which in the end will cost everyone. Further, if this position is eliminated who will make sure that this substantial investment that the City has already made will be used to expose capabilities. This is why we need this position in place and why we need a man like Red Robidas to fill that position. Thank you for listening.

Edward Doyle, 396 Laurel Street, Manchester stated:

I come before you tonight to speak as a concerned lifelong citizen, taxpayer and teacher. I teach music at Hillside Middle School. I want to commend everyone who has come up to speak tonight. It is not easy. I thank you elected officials for holding this meeting. It is everyone's responsibility to make this City a good place to live and sustain the reasons that we love it so much and it is a great City. I know that by being a teacher my words hold less weight than the parents who have spoken so eloquently but I am speaking on behalf of my students. You don't have to convince me that the job I hold requires one to be unselfish. I find it fitting that I am speaking to you at Memorial because I was a student here for four years back in the 90's and this auditorium is named after the man who changed everything for me – Arthur Mirabile, and countless other generations who knew and were touched by that great man, including many other District teachers, my colleagues at Hillside, my supervisor Chris Martin and was here last March 24 where by far the most rewarding experience for my students occurred – the Queen City Festival on that stage behind you. It was spearheaded by the work of my supervisor. I fear the educational opportunities that my students will lose due to the loss of her leadership, such as the Queen City Festival, organization of the civic lesson of marching in the Memorial Day parades, and the facilitated support of all of the supplies and equipment for the concerts. There is no doubt in my mind that providing an artistic outlet helps change student's lives for the better in a way that

nothing else in school can. In the four years I have taught here, I have taught in a community that rewards progress, respects education and nurtures its future. I teach only to return those favors. I hate knowing that less of that will be possible for students in and out of music. I hate knowing what will stop being provided to students if the budget forces the removal of school resource officers, state programs, freshman sports, etc. It is a very real possibility that the dropout rate will increase. I can only imagine how much could be possible if we stopped caring who gets the credit or takes the blame. When you see what the children need you know as I know that they deserve the best we have to offer. When one factors in the increased need of these students, heating and transportation alone, the \$143 million budget is not enough. In fact, it is an insult. From the taxpayer's perspective I am a renter. There are a lot of renters in this City. There isn't one landlord that is going to cut my rent or the rents in this City because of these tax cuts and it misses the point because I am not here to speak for a raise and I am not asking for a new car. I am just asking to sustain the community with the academic programs that have made this City what we are so proud of it to be. More with less is a fine goal but not at the expense of what makes us great. I want to speak for one second about the Library. I know countless students who have come to me and said how much the Library on Pine Street has meant to their educational opportunities and music too. It has a great music room and students have said I got this great CD for free and things like that. I want to ask that we work hard to sustain that as well. We live in a great City. Thank you.

Barbara Hagan, 154 Winter Street, Manchester stated:

I had a prepared statement to make but in listening to some of the previous speakers I think I need to have a moment of clarification here. I am a state representative to the General Court for Hillsborough District #17 and I sit on the House Education Committee. I make a lot of votes in support of teachers because I think they are our most important asset. I guess what is troubling me here tonight is that I think a lot of the comments that are being made are being directed at the wrong group of people. Mayor Guinta I supported your election because I supported a tax break because working families on the West Side of Manchester voted for me and supported me because they have to maintain their homes on fixed budgets many of them, fixed incomes. There are a lot of very hardworking families with children. There are a lot of elderly people that are trying to decide do I hold on to my house? Can I afford my property taxes? Can I pay for my medicines? Should I buy groceries this week? They are part of the people that supported you too and my understanding of this budget process is that the School Committee has been giving back to the City a surplus over the last couple of years and no teachers have been fired and no services have been cut and I just think it is unconscionable that students and teachers were put in fear by administrators who said if I don't get the amount of money I am asking for this time you are going to be the first ones to go. I think that is absolutely unconscionable. When we in working families don't have a pay raise coming in because a lot of husbands and wife that work in the public sector aren't guaranteed pay raises all of the time and a lot of us have to subsidize our healthcare, we have to look at needs in wants. There are a lot of things we want and my family will be



the first to tell you there are a lot of times when Mom and Dad have to say no. It doesn't mean that you stop feeding the children dinner because the budget is a little tighter. You still feed them dinner. You are not going to have filet mignon. You are going to have something more reasonable. I would like to think that this Board of Mayor and Aldermen would stick to their guns on the budget figures that have been provided to you and would look to the School Board and the administration of the School District, particularly Dr. Ludwell, to do some hard thinking about what comments he has made and what it has triggered in a fear factor in the City of Manchester and to do the right thing. My constituents and I support the schools and the teachers. We support the emergency personnel – the firefighters, police officers and first response that has to be there in an emergency and we want safe streets. With the rest of it we have to look hard and make some hard decisions sometimes about the wants. I appreciate the fact, Mayor Guinta, that you took the opportunity to try to do some conservative trimming of what appeared to be or has been in the past surpluses in certain areas to try to give us a break and I support you wholeheartedly and I hope the Board of Aldermen will do the same. Thank you very much.

Leslee Stewart, 205 North Bend Drive, Manchester stated:

I am Vice-Chairman of the Board of School Committee. I am here tonight representing a super majority of our School Board, the 18,000 students who are educated in the public schools and their families, as well as our over 2,500 dedicated employees who work hard to insure a quality education for our students each and every day. The Mayor's \$143 million proposed budget doesn't cut it for us and I would like to ask you to do a few things over the next several weeks as you ponder this difficult decision and I understand it because over the last 10 years I have worked with many of you making these difficult decisions. First, please visit our schools and our programs, several of them, over the next few weeks to see first hand what is going on. That is very important. Call the Superintendent of Schools or any principal. Please stop and see those programs in those schools at work because that is where you can see where your money is best spent. Secondly, please learn, listen but most importantly engage in dialogue so that you can understand why we are asking for the budget that we proposed. Finally, please make a sound educational decision because when you do I can assure you you will also be making a sound financial one for our City and our children. Thank you.

Win Hutchinson, 386 Orange Street, Manchester stated:

Tonight many special interest groups are represented at this hearing – City employees, teachers and others. I am a member of a special interest group. It is called the Manchester taxpayers. Recently I have been reminded of the story of Chicken Little. You know the little guy who got hit on the head with an acorn and ran around saying the sky is falling. He scared all of this friends. Guess what? He was wrong. Apparently the Mayor's budget has had the same effect. I have been hearing the cries around town about everything that is going to happen if this budget is passed. I congratulate Mayor Guinta on his efforts to reign in spending and try to get the City and School District to live within tighter guidelines. In

the last six years my taxes have doubled. My services haven't changed. The grass still grows in the cracks in the pavement on Orange Street. Our children are not educated to the proper level and we are not safe on the City streets or at least we don't feel that way. Obviously the large sums of money that have been spent over the last six years haven't really solved the problem for John Q. Citizen and I really have a problem thinking that the nearly \$250 billion proposed in the total overall budget isn't enough to run the City and the School District. I believe we have excellent City workers. They do a fine job and they work hard and they deserve a lot of credit. However, the reality is the organizations have become top heavy and this extra cost is preventing money from getting down to the point of me. We need more teachers in the classroom. We need fewer administrators. We need more cops on the beat. We need fewer sitting behind a desk. We need more boots on the ground at every level in the City. We can educate our kids, provide needed services and get better police protection within the Mayor's bottom line. I am asking my representative, Alderman Gatsas, and his colleagues on the Board to support the proposed bottom line and get on with the business that the people want you to conduct. Please represent the Manchester taxpayer, the biggest single special interest group in the City. Thank you very much.

Michael Rivera, 232 Laurel Street, Manchester stated:

I am a student at McLaughlin Middle School. I am here on behalf of the STAY program and I want to tell you how they have helped me out throughout many parts of my life. It has helped me become a better person and a better student. It changed the way I looked at school and the world. From the moment I entered STAY, my leadership skills began improving a lot and now maybe someday my leadership skills will allow me to do something I never thought I could do. Thank you very much.

Matapelu Leausa, 346 Maple Street, Manchester stated:

I think that we should keep the alternative education programs like STAY because STAY has helped me improve my grade point average from a 1.3 to a 3.5. I was also absent 26 days last year and I have only missed one day so far this year. Another student thinks that we should support the alternative education programs because his absences and tardiness went down. He had 23 absences and now has 15. He also increased his GPA from a 2.0 to a 3.0. Thank you.

Nicholl Marshall, 26 N. Reading Street, Manchester stated:

I come here with no paper and no notes. I was determined that I was going to ad lib this but I know I am going to forget to say a few things I wanted to say. I applaud the Mayor for his budget to hold the line on spending and I encourage the Board of Aldermen to support this budget. For too many years in recent past we have heard various elements of the City and I won't mention names who insist on more money and they reach into the wallets of the taxpayers. They still wanted more. They reached again for a deeper share of the money purses of the taxpayers of the City. They still wanted more. This has gone on enough. What happened to the New England Yankee values of thrift and spending control and determining

what you want and spending the money on those items and not on extra things? It is important with all of these programs that we do have to support them as best you can and make sound decisions with money and not to be wasteful. Again, I applaud the Mayor for holding the line on spending and again I urge the Board of Aldermen to do the same. How do you want to be remembered? Do you want to be remembered as those who encouraged holding the line on spending and thrift and sound use of money or do you want to be remembered as those who keep reaching into our wallets all of the time? I always think of the Capital One advertisement and I am inclined to think, the Manchester Board of Aldermen Card, who has been in your wallet? With all fairness to everyone and all parties involved, I do believe that this budget is appropriate for the City. The resolutions are still there with six figures or eight figures or nine figures for each resolution. Pass this budget.

Alexander Paris, 270 N. Bay Street, Manchester stated:

I am an 18-year-old at Central High School. I am here to speak about MCTV. I would like to start off with the tax cuts in general though. It is funny how we have this term tax cuts. I think it is funny how that also groups in the programs that are cut with the taxes. So you are left with, yes more money in your own pockets, but you are left with less programs to work with and your children have less programs to work with. Anyway, I would like to have a show of hands as to how many people here have watched anything at all on MCTV, which is Channel 22 and 16? Some of the Aldermen are raising their hands. I would like to point that out. MCTV is here tonight. They are up there on both ends of the stage. It is being broadcast live. I am currently enrolled in an independent study for MCTV through Central High School. I signed up for it like a regular class except it is on my own time. That is how I got involved with MCTV. It has created a great opportunity for me. I want to go to college for Media Arts and Communication, which I am. I have been accepted. I am positive that MCTV has helped me get there. The fact that my basic knowledge of how MCTV gets its money is from the Comcast bill and even if you don't cut MCTV my understanding is that you still get to keep \$500,000 and that is with MCTV. I just honestly don't understand it. Anyway, you created a great opportunity for me. I learned that I want to study directing in school. Please keep that in mind. Don't cut MCTV because it has created great opportunities for kids like me. Thank you.

Karen Sheehan Lord, 955 Chestnut Street, Manchester stated:

I am a taxpayer and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Manchester City Library. Even more importantly I have been a Library user for well over 50 years. First of all I would like to thank all of you on the Aldermanic Board and Mayor Guinta for allowing us to express our concerns about the Library budget. We do appreciate that and we look forward to more exchanges of the kind we have had in the past. By their very nature library users are not really activists. I think that you...we have been amazed at the thousands of people who have gone through our doors and the hundreds that have taken the opportunity to contact you and to contact the trustees and to contact the Friends of the Library and express their dismay over the cuts they foresee happening, particularly the cuts in staff. As Alderman Thibault

expressed earlier this week and I am going to make this very brief, he very eloquently spoke of the people whose lives are most directly affected by lack of services at their City Library. These are the people who cannot afford to buy computers. These are the people who can't go to Barnes & Noble and buy books or rent videos. These are the immigrants coming into our City and finding at the Library a chance to really expand their education. These are the toddlers...if you go into the Library in the morning you will see parents in there at 9 AM with very young children using the computers. They don't have the computers at home. They can learn these things at the Library. It is a wonderful, vibrant place and if you haven't been in there recently and I know many of you have and I thank you for that, please come back and visit our Library and see how it is being used. Please don't cut our services and our staff. Thank you.

Robert Lord, 955 Chestnut Street, Manchester stated:

I am sorry to see such controversy surround the budget process. Being semi-retired after a career as a public school teacher in Manchester I have seen the negative consequences for the community and for individuals when this happens. As a member of the Manchester City Library Foundation I have been working to raise money in support of equipment and materials which the librarians would not otherwise have. During the past five years it has been a pleasure to help the library that I have patronized for over 30 years as a resident of the City. Through my work with the Foundation I have become aware that Manchester provides the lowest per capita support for books in its public library of any city in the state.

According to your own City website for every \$1 Manchester spends, Concord spends \$4. That is why it is distressing to see the projections in the Mayor's budget. It appears that it would reduce per capita funding even further leaving significant positions unfilled and underfunding line items such as utilities. It even appears to eliminate snow removal. The proposal appears to remove security from the Library, inviting a return of the problems, which prompted its inclusion several years ago. Why would anyone want to do that? At the same time you appear to be asking the Library staff to find ways to be open more hours. How will that be possible? If, in fact, the departments in their addresses to the Finance Committee of the Aldermanic Board are correct in most of what they have reported, it would seem that the City and its residents are in for difficult times should the current proposal stand as the budget for the City. How do the public schools improve test scores? What provisions are being made for negotiating contracts with municipal and School District employees? Who will provide technical assistance and repairs? I hope you will consider more fully funding the Library and other departments as needed to maintain and perhaps in some areas even improve services for all of us. While that may be difficult in light of the promise you made to lower our taxes, accountability and providing services to a growing community should be the priority. I, for one, as a taxpayer am willing to pay the price. If you do feel the need to reduce public funding of the Library I hope we can count on all of you for private support of our foundation beginning with our author reception on May 17. You all have invitations. I hope to see you there. Thank you for your attention.

Kathleen Cook, 150 Heather Street, Manchester stated:

I have been a taxpayer and a resident here for over 30 years. Several years ago when our schools were in deteriorating conditions this Board made a very courageous decision. You chose to renovate and build additions a number of our schools and in those 30 years I have never been prouder of my City and I think as many of you have gotten into our schools you can see the benefits from that already. It is fabulous. We are working very hard and our schools are working very hard to get the quality of programs in those buildings that our children deserve. Our schools in Manchester are good. I think we all agree that we have a lot of challenges. We are dealing with No Child Left Behind. We have the needs of a very diverse population and we are all concerned about the high dropout rate. As I look at this budget that we are facing I am very concerned that we are going to be taking a giant step backwards. I have tried very hard to understand the numbers that both sides here are presenting and there are two sides. There is the City and there are the schools and we really shouldn't have two sides. I would like to think that we could sit down, the school leadership and the City leadership and in a civil and a respectful discussion come to an understanding of each other's numbers. I really believe the Mayor's and the City's numbers are the numbers they believe in. They have studied them. They are committed to them. They are sincere. I really believe the School District believes in their numbers. They have studied them. They are sincere. Somehow and I have studied them for days trying to get it. Somehow they are looking at the same numbers differently and the only way this can be resolved is if people sit down together and treat each other with respect. Through that discussion we need to understand each other's numbers and come to an agreement on the number that will give our kids the education they need and they deserve. Thank you.

Patty Cornell, 787 Montgomery Street, Manchester stated:

I was born and raised in Manchester. I am a graduate of Wilson Elementary School and Central High School and I am a taxpayer in the City of Manchester. I think we get a lot for our tax dollars in Manchester. We have great fields. Gill Stadium is beautiful. We have pools. Our streets are paved and plowed in the winter. Our trash is picked up. I don't think we can maintain that level of services with budget cuts. You get what you pay for. I have also been a guidance counselor at the Middle School at Parkside for 28 years. I think our schools do a great job at attempting to meet the needs of all students – students at risk, students with special education needs, English language learners and students who need nurturing in the fine arts and athletics. I think if we have a budget cut again we can't maintain that level of services without the money. You get what you pay for. I also have been the President of the Friends of the West Side Library for over 10 years now. On the West Side we have worked very, very hard to move out of the basement of that community center building on to the first floor. It is beautiful now but again if we can't maintain the level of services and we don't have the staffing, like Mr. Thibault said the other night the people who go there need that program. So please look really, really hard when you are looking at the budget. I think Manchester is a great place to live but we need to maintain our level of services. Thank you.

Julie Swant, 351 Hanover Street, Manchester stated:

I want to talk to you tonight about a very precious jewel in Manchester and that is the Manchester City Library. This is so dear to my heart. When I first moved to Manchester about six years ago that was the first place I went. That was the first place I got a warm welcome. The Manchester City Library provides the books and it brings in people who are not readers, those children who are not readers because they do have DVD's and videos. This is part of the whole educational process that we have in Manchester and Manchester is a jewel itself. Manchester has been voted in some of the magazines as one of the most wonderful cities in the country to live in. You can't cut library services. You can't cut out three positions at the Library and not even have someone who knows how to catalog books, whatever that entails, but most people have a Master's Degree in Library Science to do that. These are important positions. Last summer and the summer before and the summer before you went to the Manchester Library and there was no air conditioning. This is so difficult on the books and I didn't like it and I watched the sweat dripping off the faces of the people who were hard at work. I work in Manchester but I work for an engineering firm. We are air-conditioned. The Manchester City Library should be air-conditioned. Please, please, I know we want to hold the line on taxes but I really think with energy costs rising we need to increase some of the funding that we are spending in Police and Fire and Schools and definitely for the Library. Thank you.

Cindy Thibeault, 19 Springwood Drive, Hooksett stated:

I have been an educator in Manchester for 28 years and I work at the Manchester School of Technology as a teacher in the PASS program. I would like to speak on behalf of Mr. Jim Schubert and the PASS program and all of the other alternative programs in Manchester. The PASS program offers high school students a second chance at being successful with their education and helps them realize their goals for the future. Many of our students have struggled at their home schools for a variety of reasons and PASS is an alternative way of earning their diplomas. Coach Schubert is the motivating force behind the PASS program. His teachers are loyal to him and have been partners in education for many years. He also has the respect and love of his students. The PASS graduates frequently visit along with former students, athletes who call and write regularly. His relationships with the students he serves are not temporary. They are based on mutual respect and caring. Jim Schubert is a City employee that the citizens of Manchester should be proud of. He has given a lifetime of dedication to the children of Manchester and how is he being repaid for these years of service? He has been told your position is in jeopardy. Is this what we want for people who are most dedicated to the children of this City and when dropout rates are being looked at locally and nationally do we really want our dropout prevention programs placed on the chopping block? Also thank you to MCTV for being here.

Jennifer Chisholm, 241 Green Street, Manchester stated:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be able to address you about my concerns about the school budget and its proposed effect on alternative education here in Manchester. I would like to state that I am neither a teacher nor a parent yet. I am currently a social worker who provides direct service to the homeless youth of Manchester and previous to that I ran an out of school youth program through a non-profit here in Manchester for three years. I think that puts me in a good position to be able to judge some of the effects maybe that the possible cut of the alternative education program would have on kids in Manchester. Just because kids are in an alternative program doesn't mean that they don't consider education a top priority and it certainly doesn't mean that they are not capable of finishing high school and beyond going on to get advanced degrees. Many of the students need different supports and many of these students rely on the school as their primary support. As Brittany Paquette said, Mrs. O'Brien is like her mom. You know some of these kids are just not getting the support at home and they need to look for it in the schools so if you are taking away their support then it is going to kill these kids. I understand that the Mayor is interested in lowering the tax rate in the City but I believe that cutting the school budget is not a solution that the City can truly afford. I was thinking and brainstorming about some of the costs that might come from cutting this budget and I believe that the money spent on a complete school budget is insignificant compared to long-term costs, such as increased budgets for law enforcement, probation and parole, the City's Office of Youth Services, the money spent on incarceration, placement of youth in group homes, out-of-district placements, TANIFF or welfare, food stamps, Medicaid for youth who become pregnant because dropping out of school is an indicator or a risk factor for youth pregnancy and young moms are going to need healthcare through Medicaid for them and their baby, increased workforce development funds, such as workforce investment NHEP, drug treatment, community health and mental health, private funds for food pantries and City welfare and I would like to end by saying it would also increase homelessness and Mayor you spoke at the Continuum of Care's planning meeting at the Radisson for the 10 year plan to end homelessness and you asked us if there is anything you can do in the fight to end homelessness to please let you know. I am letting you know now. Thank you for your time.

Tammy Simmons, 142 Parker Street, Manchester stated:

I want to thank the Aldermen and the Mayor for having this hearing tonight and giving people the opportunity to come and speak their mind. Trust me, I will speak mine. I prepared something so that I wouldn't ramble too much. I am 100% in support of the Mayor's budget and have been from the beginning. I helped elect him in the fall and I plan to stand behind him through the whole process. I think it is important that we start looking at things a little bit more out of the box than we have in the past. Everybody's belts have gotten tighter and tighter and unfortunately I think too often all governments, not just Manchester but government in general, tends to just repeat the same thing year after year after year without addressing things line by line and saying where can we cut some excess of spending and where can we be more efficient. My main point tonight was I was a little disturbed when a couple of days ago I learned that David Scannell, the District's Coordinator

of School and Community Relations, had distributed talking points to School District employees. He did this using school computers, school e-mail systems and even directed them to call his District Office if they had any questions. That disturbs me because that is my money being spent. His e-mail contained typical rhetoric that we hear from the District during each and every budget process whether we have a Republican Mayor or a Democratic one. They say that teachers will get laid off, sports will be cut and the schools will become miraculously unsafe overnight. He included in this list a list of myths versus realities, which was more like an opportunity to scare and confuse taxpayers and parents. For instance, he says that we are only spending 61% in the classrooms and Mr. Scannell chose to instead refer to central office spending versus administrative spending as a whole. It was very similar, but not quite exactly right. He also discussed a myth that salaries are bloated in Manchester schools and implied that his reality was that teacher's salaries were overpaid. I don't think there is anybody in this room who thinks that Manchester teachers are overpaid. However, if we look at the salaries of the Administration and factor that into it, Manchester's salaries in the School District may very well be bloated. Tactics like this to me are a perfect reason why 40% of the school budget should not be spent on the administration. I would like to see more money be spent on the schoolteachers and in the classrooms teaching all of those children that we bused in tonight to speak here. I would like to help all of them further their education. It is reality. Reality is that in November the voters in Manchester asked for a tax cut. I think the least that we can do is allow the Mayor the budget that gives him one.

Linda Heath, 27 Fernand Street, Manchester stated:

I am speaking tonight as a taxpayer, as a principal of Henry Wilson School in Manchester and as a person who believes in quality education for the students in the City of Manchester. I want to review with you the educational mission of the Manchester School District. As I read our mission statement, please be aware that the Mayor's proposed budget will not allow your professional education leaders in Manchester to bring forth this mission. The mission reads as follows "to provide safe, healthy, nurturing and respectful environments in which all students have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that will enable them to become lifelong learners, as well as positive, productive citizens." The success of our schools can only be achieved through collaboration and inter-dependence with the community. The District is committed to utilizing all resources towards this exciting challenge. The mission contains five specific goals. I am going to read these goals and they have specific action points. Under the Board of School Committee's proposed budget we will be able to meet these goals and your children will receive a quality education. Goal #1 is improving student learning. Goal #2 is assessing student learning. Goal #3 is to provide a safe learning environment. Goal #4 is family, school and community partnerships. Finally, Goal #5 is all children will learn to a high standard. I ask that you think first of the children of this community and the fine outstanding professional educators both at the District and School level and the supportive parent groups and the business partnerships and do not leave any Manchester child behind. Include the Board of School Committee's proposed budget in the full City's budget. Thank you.



Phil Callanan, 34 Everett Street, Manchester stated:

I am the principal at Parker-Varney Elementary School. I am the President of the Association of Manchester Principals. I come here tonight though to speak to you as a parent. I have two boys that go to Webster Elementary School. I am a single father and I have bragged to everyone I know that my kids go to school here in Manchester. I have struggled to make sure that they can continue their education here and go to Hillside and Central and get everything that I know Manchester has to offer but as this budget is put before me, their mom who lives in Bedford, is beginning to question me. What am I to tell her? How can I defend her request? Can you give me an answer? Is it that Manchester is just not good enough? Is Bedford a better community? What am I to tell them? These two boys mean everything to me and I have done everything I can for them but if this budget goes through I may have to tell them that. Please do not support the Mayor's budget. Thank you.

Joannie Barrett, 165 Heather Street, Manchester stated:

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak. I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the Manchester City Library. I am actually the Chair and I have come to speak out in support of the Library. Our Library provides wonderful services to the entire community. We have a wonderful children's collection, art collection, DVD movie collection, books on tape, fiction and non-fiction collection, research and periodicals and much more in the way of materials. We have a wonderful staff who provide a great service to patrons and care for our collections and equipment. We have computers that are available to every patron and even provide computer classes free of charge to the taxpayers of this City. Reference questions will be answered in person or via Internet. You may check on availability of books, reserve books, and review books all via the Internet as well. Children's programming is unbelievable. What would April school vacation week mean without the Teddy Bear Picnic and the summer programs for families appeal to all ages. For adults there are book discussion groups, computer classes, and a wonderful art room with a wonderful collection provided in part by the Harvey Dodd trust fund money. I am a tutor with the Learn to Read program, which is housed at the Manchester Library. I was informed today that when the next tutor training session ends on May 13 the program will be able to provide enough tutors to those adults waiting to learn to read and will bring the number of pairs of tutors and students working together up to 50. As a trustee I serve as liaison to the Foundation Board. They raise money for the Library. The recently purchased new furniture for the West Side branch to help with the renovations there. They have provided so much to the Library including equipment for the computer training program and will be presenting the Library with a brand-new podium, which will be delivered just in time for the big fundraiser of the year presenting author Robert Parker who will speak and do a book signing at the Library on May 17. We also have an active group, The Friends of the Library, who raise money for the Library. The Library is a vibrant place with activities going on all the time. You will see the Librarian in the Children's area not only working at her desk, but you

will see her doing a story hour with young kids or manning the reference desk. Our computer whiz not only keeps the computers and equipment in tiptop shape but she also teaches computer classes to the public free of charge. You may visit the wonderful new Teen Center, which as wonderful café tables and chairs provided by the trustees with materials all geared to teens. The West Side branch with their new renovations has a wonderful teen area as well. Please support the Library and provide an adequate budget so the Library will be able to continue to provide the excellent services they currently provide the taxpayers of Manchester. Thank you.

Gary Archambault, 191 Chester Turnpike, Candia stated:

I am here on behalf of MCTV. I am asking that you do not cut the MCTV program out of the budget. As a producer and an announcer for MCTV I have been there for well over six years and have had some wonderful experiences there and I am also a member of the Catholic Medical Center workforce and we produce a program or did produce a program through MCTV for four years before we moved over to MCAM. The one thing about MCTV that I think is so important is the fact that it gives a voice to everybody in the City of Manchester whether you agree with that voice or not. It is a great opportunity for people to become producers to get out and give their opinion and get things about their community out into the community at large. It is a wonderful opportunity for people to get involved. It wasn't there when I was a student at Central in 1977. I wish it were. I have known Grace Sullivan for 29 years. She was a teacher of mine and it was a great opportunity for the City of Manchester when this became part of the City of Manchester and part of the School District. MCTV does provide a great service to the community by providing diverse programming in keeping the community at large informed. I am constantly stopped either at work or out in public by people who have seen me on MCTV or watched a program that I am associated with on MCTV or MCAM. It is a wonderful thing for this City. It provides a great service for this City and I sincerely hope as you could have seen by the show of hands in here by the people who are attending this meeting and also by the people who will be watching this program when it goes on MCTV that this is a viable part of the Manchester community and I implore you to please keep it as part of the Manchester community. Thank you very much.

Alice Krasner, 200 Alliance Way, Manchester stated:

I have been a strong advocate for education ever since I have lived here. I came in 1950 and I have been a taxpayer for all of those years too. I respectfully disagree with Mayor Guinta's tax cuts in our City budget, especially the cuts in the School and Library budget. I am not going to read what I had written because it has been covered by so many people already. There are just a couple of things I want to say. Some of these stories going around annoy me because they are not true. They said, for example, that the salaries paid to our teachers are very high. Well I asked for figures on that and let's set the record straight. The average salary for teachers in NH is \$43,941 and in Manchester it is \$40,691. In Nashua and Portsmouth it is \$47,000. In Concord the average is over \$50,000. So Manchester is not by

any means the highest. Another story that is told about the School Department is that the Manchester School District spends too much on central office administration. Actually, about 3% of the District's budget is spent on central office administration. Again, the story on the large cost of administration is not true. I think that is enough to give you an idea of where I am coming from and I, too, appreciate this opportunity to speak to you. Now that I am an old lady at 93 I am out of practice of speaking as you can see. I am so glad to see a few of my old friends from the School Board, Mr. Shea and my former School Board member...I lived in Ward 2 for 50 years. Thank you so much.

Paul Porter, 237 Woodcrest Court, Manchester stated:

I would just like to talk about a well orchestrated what I perceive as a myth, with all due respect Mayor, about a tax cut. It is easy to use bogus numbers to come up with the results that you wish to display. For example, in the Mayor's budget he has allocated \$766,734 for the Veteran's exemption. About a year ago on the same Board that I sat on as a fellow Alderman with Mayor Guinta, we voted to increase that to \$300. From \$200 to \$300 giving a final total of \$1,241,000. That is a \$330,000 increase without the Aldermen doing anything. In addition to that, we are going through a revaluation. It would be nice to say but what if we weren't but we are. The Assessors have on many occasions submitted information that they will be requesting \$3.2 million for the abatement account. The Mayor in his budget in order to show a tax decrease chose to use a number that doesn't exist - \$766,000...I'm sorry \$766,000 is the overlay. The \$911,000 was the Veteran's exemption. The bottom line to this is if the Aldermen did nothing and the budget defaulted to the Mayor's budget there would be a tax increase. I am not going to use the old tax base because we are never going to see that again. The Assessor's have estimated a tax base of \$9.7 billion. Now when we apply that to the bottom line after you add in the numbers that the Mayor has omitted that gives a tax rate of \$15.88. In order to keep your taxes equal, the rate would have to be \$15.60. The Mayor's budget, in fact, and I hope Mark Hayward is listening, represents a 1.8% increase. My point in bringing this out is simply if the Aldermen and you have a very difficult job ahead of you...I know it because for two years I did sit in that same seat but I am saying that if you are worrying about the tax increasing it already has. As a grandparent and a grandfather of four children in the public schools, I certainly want to see that the high level of education is maintained. Certainly the administration has to take a hard look at their own budget. If certain programs must be eliminated that is a choice that has to be made by the school system and I would like to say that the Board of School Committee, as opposed to the Board of Aldermen. The Board of Aldermen simply allocate a bottom line. It is not the responsibility of the Board of Aldermen to determine which programs are cut. That is strictly the prerogative of the Board of School Committee. I just wanted to point out that I think it is about time we did away with the myth that there is a tax decrease. There is no tax cut because the true test of a tax cut when you get your bill next November, if your taxes aren't lower than they were last year is that a tax cut? I doubt it and with a year of revaluation and having sat on the Board of Assessors for 22 years I am well aware of what happens during a revaluation. Many, many people's taxes are going to

increase double-digit percentages – 10% to 15% or 20%. I think we have to keep an eye on that. I do disagree with one comment that Alderman Pinard has made. That is that he was elected to cut. I think the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor have been elected to conduct City business in the best interest of all of the residents and all of the departments of the City, not to cut. There are two ways of decreasing a tax rate. Increase revenues or lower expenses. The only way we can increase revenues and I think that Manchester has a serious problem in that we do not have enough taxable property coming online every year. The Verizon Center is beautiful. It pays zero in taxes. The baseball stadium is beautiful. It pays not \$1 in taxes. The garage that was built on the corner of Bridge and Elm we are funding \$5 million in bonding and the debt service on the bond is more than the tax revenue. Is that a plus? I am not against any of those projects but I have to think we have to put them in perspective when we put together a budget. In closing I would simply like to say that I hope the Aldermen take a hard look at whatever needs to be shored up because you have already got a tax increase with the Mayor's budget, not through his fault but the fact is that the increase is there. As far as education is concerned I would just like to leave a parting shot. If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

James Barden, 186 Brook Street, Manchester stated:

There are a lot of special interest groups represented here this evening. We have the young people, the teachers, the library and so forth. We have Auburn and Candia and Bedford. It is all great. I am here for my special interest, my pocketbook. I understand how difficult it is for not only the Board of Mayor and Aldermen but also the citizens of the City to accept change. It is very difficult. We do vote in Mayor Guinta, who by the way through his education and experience has devoted his life to democracy so with that in mind we voted him based on three things. One he said he was going to lower taxes. Two he said he was going to give us more police and three he was going to improve education. This budget is his job and that is what he is doing. I also want to thank Mr. Gatsas from Ward 2, my Alderman, for leading and I want to stress the word leading, the Aldermanic Board through the Finance Committee process and I will stress process. Mr. Gatsas had to invent a system of colored pages if any of you have been watching TV lately so that we could keep all of the Aldermen on the same page. We have heard different Aldermen speaking to saving Gill Stadium, which was alluded to earlier. That is a wonderful thing. I played there for many years myself. I toiled in this City since 1968. We have heard about saving the Library and saving the senior citizens building down there on the West Side. All of these things are very important and I doubt very much that in the final analysis at the end of the process that anyone sitting up here is going to turn their back on any of those projects. It just doesn't make sense. So to bring out these...what should I call them negative karma's or scare tactics I don't think is really necessary. I think that those types of things will handle themselves. I heard this evening and I know I only have three minutes and I shall not go over that but comments directed against the Aldermanic Board regarding the school budget. The Finance Committee of the School Board presented a budget. That is what is at issue. That is what they are going by. As far as any cuts to teachers or any of these other things that have been

brought up this evening, today in the paper on page Alderman Thibault, Mr. Ludwell our Superintendent was devoted a quarter page ad. He says first and foremost the Mayor's budget will eliminate 38 teaching positions. Now how can a man, making that kind of money with that kind of education and that much experience...I mean we had a thorough search trying to fill that position if you remember back when it was time for that position to be filled how can he come up with, first and foremost that 38 teaching positions should be eliminated? We have a choice. We can either increase government spending or receive tax abatement. I would have to say that the voters voted for our current Mayor. Let him do his job. These Aldermanic Board members were voted. Let them do their jobs. When it comes down to the bottom line I will say that the Board will have a difficult determination discerning what the City's needs are. I hope in that process of discernment that fairness will be provided to each part of the budget equally. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Keith Hirschmann, 296 Dunbarton Road, Manchester stated:

I would really like to say that I find us and I say us because I think that we are all connected as people of this great City in an unfortunate situation because no one, no one in elected government wants education and city services pitted against each other and I don't think that it is right. I think it is appalling but what I am going to say is the most rewarding position I have ever held in my life was that of a freshman football coach. It was an unpaid position. I was a single family kid from West Manchester who was lucky enough to be a freshman football coach at my alma mater, West High, and I did it while I was an Alderman and I did it while I was making tough decisions as an Alderman. We were cutting taxes back in the 90's. From 1996 until 2001 I was with Ray Wieczorek and the group that really held the City together in tough times. We are still in tough times. Mayor Baines left many positions vacant for the past six years because he couldn't fill them because he knew he was in trouble. Those positions are still in the budgets. They are still vacant. I am asking you to cut vacant positions that aren't needed. I am also asking Superintendent Ludwell, please with the rhetoric. Freshman football, freshman basketball, these are the things that don't cost much money that the kids of this community really need. Do we need a tax cut? Yes. Do the kids need opportunities in high school? Yes. You have to earn your salary and figure out how to deliver these things. It goes very deep. I just attended the 139<sup>th</sup> class of the State Police Training Academy. One of the graduates was one of my freshman football players that came from a single family home and didn't have any opportunities but made the full stride. Why? He played freshman football rather than be on the streets drawing graffiti or whatever else could have come his way. Freshman football or basketball or music, whatever these opportunities are at the school they don't cost a lot of money. Keep them in the budget. As far as City services go, boy I commend you Frank Guinta because the taxpayers do need a tax cut and there are vacant positions that have to be eliminated. There are line items that have to be eliminated. There are line items that have to be scrutinized. I am just asking everyone to do the right thing. I can tell you in Concord as a group, Republicans and Democrats, we have a mantra. Always let's do the right thing for Manchester. I serve with many people from across the aisle. Ted Gatsas drew up a new education funding plan to

help education. He brought millions of extra dollars into Manchester to help with this problem. Do we want to hold the line on taxes? Yes. Do we want to help education? Yes. I really want Superintendent Ludwell to do a better job, park the SUV if you are driving one and let's get real with this. Thank you.

Hal Jordan, 11 Wheeler Road, Bow stated:

I am here on behalf of one of the great institutions in our City, the Greater Manchester Family YMCA on 30 Mechanic Street. I want to thank you first of all for being a wonderful partner to the YMCA for 19 years, which you have been, to run the STAY alternative school and most recently the TAP program. Many of the students you heard speak earlier this evening. I think you can understand the impact these programs have. I think the challenge that you have and the reason Mayor Guinta was elected was to try to do more with less. That is a tough job but I think there is a very creative solution at hand to do that. Mayor Guinta won his election on that and I think we need to honor that and one of the powerful ways to do this is by working in partnership with organizations like the YMCA to find creative ways to leverage funding to provide services, critical services, for kids. I would like to take a few minutes to tell you how we do that. We have 52 children in the STAY program at all four middle schools and they are critically needy kids on the edge of dropping out. Right now the City funds \$44,000 for STAY in the truancy alternative program. The YMCA raises on its own \$215,000 of additional support to make this happen. Without the City's participation in this program many of the core other funders like Hillsborough County Governor's Drug Free Schools are going to disappear because we need your support to be in that game. 17% of the funding comes from the City. 83% of the funding comes from the Y and other supporters. The alternative education programs are critical to insure the future of these kids. It reduces crime, violence, alcohol and drug use. Investing in prevention is smart money. We as a community have held hands together - the City, the Y, the United Way, and local businesses and foundations for 19 years to keep the STAY program alive. I ask you not to pull your hand out of the circle. This is cost effective use of funds. It is smart money and it makes a difference in the lives of these young boys and girls. So I say again on their behalf I implore you to make the smart decisions. 17% you fund and 83% we fund. I call that good economics Mayor. I call that efficient use of City funds and I ask you to keep the money in place.

David Scannell, 838 Maple Street, Manchester stated:

Nothing I can say at this point in time could be deemed to be original. It is a little late at night but all good teachers know the value of repetition so I am going to probably repeat a few things that people have heard today because I think they are important points and I will repeat something I say every opportunity I get. The most important institutional influence in my life was the Manchester public schools. Not my college. Not my law school. Not my church, sorry Brother Paul, but Smyth Road, Hillside and Central High School and most importantly Central High School. I am particularly proud given what the school system has done for me to be able to work for the school system with a group of exceptionally talented

individuals at 286 Commercial Street. The work they do every day lightens the load for principals and teachers and allows principals and teachers to provide direct services to students. Someone far wiser than I said that any work you do for children is never done in vain and the people who work at Commercial Street are living proof that that is absolutely, positively the case. I will repeat something else that people had talked about. This does represent a turning back. We are not going back to a one-room schoolhouse but we are going to go back to the days when students were not individuals or were not treated as individuals but were treated as numbers. Many of the programs that would most directly affected by these budgets are programs that were developed in order to help students who didn't fit into a traditional classroom setting and that is at both ends of the spectrum. The gifted and talented program is at risk. Programs for students like STAY, TAP and the Southern NH Partnership who had a difficult time fitting in the traditional classroom setting. Those programs are at risk. Those programs represent the School District's responsiveness to what the community has demanded and that is the schools should meet the children where they are at. I urge you to consider how flexible the schools have been over the past five years and how they have attempted to meet the students where they are at and give them the chance to continue that road to success. The last thing I want to repeat was among the wisest things said here tonight and it was by one of the wisest people I know and that is Kathy Cook. Her essential message was something that Lyndon Johnson once said "Come let us reason together." I think there is, there always is room for people on one side of a table, for people sitting in the first two rows, to get together and to do things that are in the best interest of those students who were so eloquent earlier tonight. Those are the words I leave you with "Come let us reason together." Thank you.

Jean Jeudy, 134 Calef Road, Manchester stated:

I am a taxpayer and also a State Representative for Ward 3. Mayor Guinta and members of the Board I am here tonight on behalf of MCTV and the school budget. For MCTV I used to be a member and I know MCTV is doing a good job in the community. Not only for adults but for the children. I would like you to reconsider the budget for MCTV. Alternative education. It is really important because without education those kids are going to be on the streets and no education equals jail time equals crime. So I know all of you are going to reconsider your budget. Thank you very much. Please I hope you listen to everyone who spoke before me.

Lloyd Basinow, 503 Amherst Street, Manchester stated:

After 40 years in local politics I think I have some tenure. I am the third of five generations that have attended Manchester schools. My grandmother was one of the co-founders of the Parent-Teachers Association in this City. I graduated from the old Ash Street school. I attended the old Lincoln school. If things are so bad in the schools today that the classrooms have to be no more than 25 students let me tell you we have some awful stupid people who graduated from grammar school when I went there because we had 40 to 45 students and I haven't heard that any of them came out without an education. Now we have some good

teachers in our school system today but we also have the other kind and they should have been sent out to pasture a long time ago. I don't think that anyone in the school administration is underpaid. To the contrary there are a few that I question whether they even earn what they are presently getting but I am not here to criticize the teachers. A number of years ago I had a private conversation with a superintendent of schools who shall remain nameless and at that time he told me and a couple of others that were with us in the meeting that yes I do pad the school budget. I know it is going to be reduced and there are certain items that are going to be knocked off and others are going to be approved and he showed us just one example. I allotted X amount of money, which happened to be a few thousand dollars, for new typewriters. That is going to be approved and over here is an item I want that is going to be disapproved. Let me tell you, those typewriters didn't show up in the school system for another couple of years but the item that was not in his budget was funded with the money that was to go to the typewriters. So there are departments that honestly go and pad knowing that they are going to get some cuts. You have some tough decisions to make. I realize that and the rest of the taxpayers realize it but there comes a point in time when we have to make the hard decisions. That is your job. Do a good job.

Joe Cunha, 187 Pickering Street, Manchester stated:

I have one special interest right now and that is my son, Nathaniel. He went to Smyth Road is at Hillside and will be going to Central. His sister is grown up and a junior in college doing a fantastic job as a bio-med student thanks to Smyth Road, Hillside and Central and the hard work of the teachers because she was in there during some of the dismantling of the school system, which thankfully we got Mayor Baines to help rebuild our schools. Now for the sake of a campaign promise you are going to start to dismantle it. Your campaign rhetoric is done. You are in office. Forget about it. You are not cutting taxes. You are cutting services. I give you all permission to raise my taxes. You get what you paid for as was said before. That is the absolute truth. You are telling me you are going to save me \$70 on my tax bill. How much is it going to cost because now you want to increase busing to two miles? You can say all you want – the sky is falling down because they are making Chicken Little scenarios but if they have to cut they have to cut something. It may not be your personal piece of the sky that is falling down but it is somebody's so don't think for a minute that cuts are going to happen and they are not going to affect education of any child or they are not going to affect some of the creature comforts. Do you want to all...go down to Salem, NH and bring your own garbage to the dump? We got rid of that real quick again. Every year we talk about paying money for garbage bags and right away the citizens see that is just ridiculous and insane. We are willing to pay for what needs to be done. You have permission to raise my taxes. I am not a teacher begging for my job. Please don't cut my job. Unfortunately that is all I think the Boards here when they come up. They are telling you the truth. They are telling you what goes on but you just...I don't think you can get beyond that and the reason I know that is I am a 20 year teacher in Massachusetts in one of the border towns. Dismantling happens very quickly. The town I lived in was going to save money. They cut programs and they cut department heads. You know why they cut



department heads? You want to cut the snake cut off its head because now you don't have anybody fighting for the lives of those teachers and the children that they teach and what they need to be taught. You don't have that. Now you have, if you are lucky enough to have this principal that likes this program, that happens at this school but what is happening over there at that school? There is a good function of a supervisor trying to keep things even throughout a City and this City is a huge City. One of their cuts they decided they wanted to make was cutting back on the band program. They cut the band program. They had the children pay for lessons after school. In our City they were giving lessons during school time. We pay for the lessons for our kids and we are happy to do that. Now that was cut. I know you gave me the red light but I saw the other guy talking a lot more too. This is the point. They cut out the lesson program. That first year they went from having about 367 children in a band program down to having about 70 children the year after that down to 35 and the short-sighted new Mayor that came in that was in charge of all of these cuts he sees it and says this is fine. Two years later he is watching the Thanksgiving Day parade and saying why is the high school band so small? Everything you do effects every aspect of education and I am not here talking about cuts in music. I am here talking about cuts in education. I am talking about cuts in City services. I don't care what it is. Fine. Make they justify why they have their job if you want accountability but I want accountability on your part, not to just make general statements in the paper, I want accountability on your part to justify why something is not important. Thank you.

Donna Tremblay, 17 Fairview Street, Manchester stated:

I am a vocational teacher and have been in the post-secondary and secondary teaching for 15 years. I have grown and learned through this Board. You have offered many professional development opportunities for teachers. You have many new programs for young people. I am voice for students this evening that I have talked with, their parents, mothers, fathers, teachers and administration. I am finding it is a wonderful thing because bridging the community with the classroom is working. The classrooms are...you are trying to clean it up. There is more dignity in the students. There is more new hope in their eyes. We can see it. Parents are calling in. Teachers are taking notes and calling in between classes and after hours to keep this dedication and this dignity in the community going. What has been happening throughout country and the different devastations and our students are responding. They want to get out there and help in the community. There are more community development projects that our students want to give their time to, be it the Walk for Hunger or go over to the Salvation Army and help to tutor the children on after school programs. Our students are hungry for more of what you have been giving. You have been doing a great job. We continue to want to work with you. The teachers are very dedicated. The administrators are trying to be gracious to work with us. The students are responding in every way, shape and form that they can and everybody is working double time so we have faith. We wanted to tell you that. We know you are going to make the right decisions. We are not worried about it and we trust you and know that you are going to do the right thing for your community and for our country. Thank you.

Jane Beaulieu, 609 S. Main Street, Manchester stated:

I was born and raised here. I am also a state representative on the Environment and Agriculture Committee. I often come before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen because I always have concerns and I like to be heard and I do like the general public to hear me as well and thanks to MCTV they do hear me. The Natural Resources Coordinator's position is being eliminated, which is really unacceptable. Over the last five years the City has spent nearly \$6 million on CSO projects and another \$5.2 million on streambank stabilization and urban ponds restoration. The City of Manchester really has the most polluted pond in the state, which is Nutt's Pond. There was environmental education going on. There were a lot of wonderful natural resources protection projects that were established and continue to assist our natural resources in the City. With this position being eliminated who is going to be taking care of the natural resources? It certainly isn't going to be the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. I witnessed about a month ago some surplus land that immediately was taken out of surplus and sold to a developer. The land is up off of Wellington Road and it is going to be turned into workforce housing. Workforce housing...I don't really know what workforce housing is. Where is the workforce? I would rather hear affordable housing but anyway it is not a good decision to sell off surplus land. If we have all of these families moving in, where are these kids going to go to school? That land was...there was a paper trail with the School District and they were looking at that land. They may not have immediately needed it but perhaps in five or ten years they may have needed it. Also I do know many of the people that spoke tonight. Chris Martin I have known I think since before she was born. I went to school with her sister. A fine, fine individual. Fine Arts Director. Eliminated. Thank you very much. Another person that spoke was Ted Menswar, an educator here in the City for many years. Another person that is being cut is Red Robidas, his position, Risk Management. What is that? That is unacceptable. Red Robidas was born and raised here. I went to school with Red. He has been working for the City for 31 years. Can you cut him? Can you cut that...you can't cut that position. I mean risk management is very important. His position is very important. Also there are...okay what are we going to save? We are going to save \$1 a week. I think maybe we could all get together and think about how we can raise or how we can collect that \$1/week from every resident, every taxpayer in the City. I think maybe we could do that. Also you were looking at, which you decided not to Board of Mayor and Aldermen, hire a new trash administrator but at the same time a couple of weeks before that eliminated a Natural Resources Director. I just don't know what is going on here. Business as usual I guess. So anyway I also hate to bring it up but party politics. I don't like it. I don't like it at all. I see it here and I see it up at the State House. It is really, again, unacceptable. I did hear someone talk about special interest groups. Manchester City Taxpayers were represented here, you know big City special interest group. Are we responding to special interest groups now? I don't think so. Anyway John Wood is not here. There is a problem at Valley Cemetery. John Wood is the founder of the Friends of the Valley Cemetery. He has raised a few million dollars and he is asking in the CIP budget for monies to address sewage that exists in the Valley Cemetery so please do not cut that out of

the budget because you know what? I think you are mandated to keep it in the budget. Anyway, please do not cut that out of the budget because you know what, I think you are mandated to keep it in the budget. So anyway this is a great opportunity again to be heard. The general public needs to hear and MCTV needs to be funded. Also, Mayor Guinta you are a gentleman. I know that you are listening attentively to everybody that is speaking here. I really think you need to as well as the Aldermen in this room, do the right thing. To cut services and to cut employees to save \$1/week I don't think so. Thank you very much.

Irene Shea, 460 Vinton Street, Manchester stated:

I would like to shift from the topic of schools and concentrate on the taxpayers that are paying the bills. Many cannot be here tonight. When an Alderman is elected to office he is elected to do the will of the constituents of his ward. If you walk or drive through Ward 7 you will observe throughout the ward signs stating I am voting for Guinta's budget. Mayor Guinta took Ward 7. The taxpayers of Ward 7 demand lower taxes. When a Mayor is elected he has more than a ward to answer to. He is elected to do the will of the whole City. In case you forgot, Mayor Guinta won the election. The voice of the City is loud and clear. We want lower taxes. Now I ask how do you expect the Mayor to lower the taxes without trimming the budget? It doesn't make sense. The Mayor is doing exactly what he was elected to do – lower the taxes and I am going to repeat this again. The Mayor is doing exactly what he was elected to do - lower the taxes. Please give him a break and let him get the job done. Thank you.

Stephen Abbott, 239 Harrison Street, Manchester stated:

I feel like saying ditto but I will say a few words anyway. You are hearing a lot of statements tonight and I hope you will weigh them all carefully. Despite comments to the contrary what is being proposed is a modest tax cut and as was said earlier, the sky is not falling. I am hearing a lot of rhetoric tonight. Thirty-eight teachers are going to be fired and hundreds of students will go without teachers. MCAM is going to be destroyed. The schools are going to be dismantled. I think you need to weigh those comments very carefully. As opposed to what I just heard a couple of minutes ago it is not acceptable to raise taxes for another two or three years. We need to start now. This is not business as usual as someone had said. This is different and I have to applaud Mayor Guinta for taking the initiative but if you don't like where he has cut I urge all of you to take a hard look and find other places to cut. Listen to these people and find out where you can cut but do a little trimming. It is not going to kill us. Thank you.

Kevin Verville, 48 Roysan Street, Manchester stated:

Mr. Mayor, Board of Aldermen and School Board Representatives, thank you for having us. I also support Mayor Guinta's tax cuts. If you could save the cheering until the end I would appreciate it. It is a very modest tax cut that we are looking for. We are looking to find efficiencies. Go through these budgets line item by line item and see where you can save money. Mr. Gatsas I want to thank you for trying to push that through. I know Doug Kruse

and others on the School Board are trying to take that mentality as well and it is very effective. I also support MCTV so I can keep an eye on you guys and know that is going on in the City so do what you can to save that. I am a former educator. I am married to a teacher. I support teacher salaries, higher teacher salaries. The pay increases they get are not representative. They often don't even keep pace with inflation and that is a shame but there has to be places you can cut. I have seen the salaries of the administrators of this School District and I have seen what they claim to be doing but I don't see the results. Maybe that is where we can trim a little bit of fat. It is also true the School District returns millions of dollars every year to the City and all we are doing is taking that money out of the gross number. There is nothing wrong with that. Cut administrative costs and not the teachers. We are a School in Need of Improvement and I don't know if that is a good thing or a bad thing. Most people think it is a bad thing but what that tells me is our teachers in Manchester have not trained our children to pass the test. They are teaching our children how to think and reason and prepare them for the real world. One test issued by the State of NH and issued by some other board does not accurately represent what our children know and what they are learning. Let's not throw School in Need of Improvement as the giant we need to throw \$10 million more at it out of the taxpayer's pockets. Don't teach the test, teach the kids. There has been a lot of talk about sports and sports are so desperately needed in the school. I challenge you to do the math on this one. Take the total number of students in the Manchester School District and then take the total number of athletes. Not the total number of team members for every team because many students play multiple sports and you will find that the number of athletes that are being supported with a large sum of money is a very small percentage of the student population and while there are lessons to be learned on the field, those are not the lessons that these kids need when they come to work for the companies in Manchester or when they go to hopefully our state schools or out of state for college. Do the math. I dare you at a School Board meeting to bring those numbers forth and let the public hear what those are. Again, all we are trying to do is hold a flat line budget. Heating costs and energy costs are going up. It's true. I need that money to heat my house. We need some money to heat the school. We have to trim in other places. There has to be places where money can be saved. You get what you pay for but you have to put it out to bid and you have to make sure you are getting the best for your dollar. Thank you.

Jennifer Lamy, 24 Payson Street, Manchester stated:

My teachers can't be here because they were told if they are not Manchester residents they cannot be here so I am speaking on behalf of my program and me. I currently go to the Ombudsman program. I will graduate with a diploma next month because of this program. When I was younger I was in over 32 foster homes and group homes so I had to switch schools 11 times in 3 years. I am not on the same wave length as other students. I gave up on my education after that and I went downhill. I had my son on May 17 of last year and then I heard of the Ombudsman program. That was my last hope. It would have been hard for me to go to a regular school with 3,000 students on only three hours of sleep because my son is very colicky. Ombudsman is a program that helps kids who want to drop out get their

high school diploma so they can be somebody some day. I want to show my son that having an education is very important and that is the only reason why I would like to get my high school diploma, because my son needs me to have a good education. By cutting the budget for schools you are going to cut the alternative programs and that is showing our children that education isn't that important. I am sure, Mayor Guinta, that you have your high school diploma and I am also sure you wouldn't be where you are today if you were a high school dropout. Right now because I don't have a diploma yet I have to support my son on a Dunkin Donut's paycheck. If you cut the alternative programs there are going to be 150 or more kids without an education. There are 60 kids in the Ombudsman program and 90 kids in PASS and God only knows how many others in the other programs. These kids, without an education, will be in trouble with the law and Welfare will have to help these kids in some way or another and that will come out of your taxes also. Without these alternative schools, half of us would be out on the streets selling drugs because without a good education you can't get a good job and without a good job you don't make good money to support yourself or your family. Our children are our future and by cutting the school's budget we are basically telling our children that we don't care about their education. I have made a lot of mistakes in my life and getting an education is not one of them. Please don't cut the school budget. I may not be able to buy my son Christmas presents but I will make damn sure he has a good education. I was also on the state program when I was younger and that did help me out. It was the only thing I had to look forward to besides coming home to my drunken mother. For most kids in Manchester that is the only hope they have. They go on fieldtrips to have fun. Some parents can't afford to bring them to Canobie Lake but if they are good at school they can go places like that and that does help children out. That is all I have to say. Thank you.

William Tickler, 177 Lancelot Avenue, Manchester stated:

Mayor Guinta and members of the Board of Aldermen I have lived in the City of Manchester and have been paying taxes here for the last 50 years. I have two sons and they were both educated in the Catholic school system with no property taxes paid by the City taxpayers. I am here tonight regarding the budget and the property taxes on my house on Lancelot Avenue, which I have seen increase six times and at least double in the last six years. With these new property valuations, which we talked about tonight, Mr. Porter gave some information on that. We are going to have some big problems I am afraid. A lot of the senior citizens and homeowners are no longer going to be able to keep their homes if the budget keeps going up. I hope that tonight you heard most of the other stuff that has gone on so I am not going to delay you any longer but I hope tonight we can come together and have a fair and good budget. Thank you.

James Chan, 705 Beech Street, Manchester stated:

Before I begin I would like to extend to Mayor Guinta a stentorian crescendo for his stance in reigning in the City's budget and his stance on the School budget. He is not a dictating machine for the world's most monstrous union, the NEA, and its branches. Please note that

the educational funding system is focused on the needs of the School District not the students. The mantra of the MEA and NEA for the past 50 years has always been to ask for more money, more money, more money. Now in going back to the early report, the Coleman report in 1966, he asked does the input into our schools meaning money, buildings, laboratories, teacher's salaries effect the outputs from that school, meaning student achievement. The answer was merely a nano degree. Let me give you an example, in 2003 Washington, DC teacher's salaries were the eighth highest in the nation. The per child funding in Washington, DC is just under \$11,000. The product of his humongous dollar input is the student output is ranked at the bottom of the list. Smaller classrooms, that is what the NEA wants. They want more teachers. The California Proposition in 1996, CSR initiative, brought the class down from 20 to 15. The conclusion? No difference. ESL that is now called English Learning Language, the California Proposition 227, for English as a Second Language. The conclusion? No difference with or without ESL. Special education. The NEA wants more funding and referrals for special education so they can increase the number of teachers. Let me ask you this question. Is your child placed in special education and designated as ADHD? Perhaps the child was bored because the child may be profoundly intellectually gifted so the teacher will place the child as ADHD. It is very easy and convenient. Meaning what? This would solve the dilemma. This is known as what? The joy of being blameless. Isn't it wonderful? Now let's go back to school health. There is a question of are the children getting the best in healthcare. In the City of Manchester the nurse staffing is on several classifications. Nurse is a generic term. It has no meaning to it because a nurse can be from an LPN to an MPH, the last meaning what? Master in Public Health. Then you say what is the staffing in the City of Manchester. Well it runs the whole shebang. LPN to a few in MPH. Then you say well that is no big deal. Well it is. Let me give you from a day thing now. Do the nurses teach the children how to wash their hands? It sounds ludicrous doesn't it? Well you go home and think about it. The red light is on. I can see that even with my bifocals.

Peter Duffy, 246 Linden Street, Manchester stated:

I have been a property owner since 1979 and a business owner since 1988. I thank you all for listening to us. You have a tough job ahead of you and I don't envy you. Just very generally the comments that I have heard tonight is there is an awful lot that is excellent in this City. I just urge you don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Look hard at what programs are really working well. Manchester has hit its stride in many ways in the last six years. Please keep some of these programs that we are really proud of. Most recently I was appointed as a trustee for the City Library. The City Library for under \$3 million gives you pure gold. Look at what it does. It is the backbone and the backstop for lifelong learning in the City. It administers and delivers services to the very young, our school age students who use that very hard after school, for our senior citizens and for the unemployed. If you look at one of the issues that is sweeping the country right now, look at the people who are being thrown out of work with the outsourcing of jobs overseas. They are told to retrain and our Library is there for that. It is a wonderful institution. Please keep the funding at a level

where services can remain. You all heard the numbers on Monday night. I can't repeat them and I wouldn't repeat them but there will be some lay-offs and some cutback in hours and services and personnel and there is a strong possibility that the new HVAC system that has been employed is not going to be fully operational because of the energy costs. One thing about the Library, you may complain about top heavy administrative costs in other departments but in the Library there are 38 full-time employees and 12 part-time employees. There is no one employee that is strictly administrative. Every Librarian serving in an administrative position services the public. They are all operational. You get a really good bang for your buck with this program. It does so much for everybody in the City. The Library should be a beacon of every community. Certainly for this City. You should be able to walk into a town or city and look at its library and know just about everything you need to know about that city. You have a tough job ahead of you but please strive for excellence. Don't accept mediocrity. Strive for excellence when you look over these figures. Thank you all very much. You have a tough job. Be morally courageous.

Kevin Phelan, 1378 Wellington Road, Manchester stated:

I have heard a lot of talk about special interest groups also tonight. I am a father and I have a child who will be entering the Manchester School District school system this coming fall and I am told that makes me a member of a special interest group as well. We are here tonight...I will just run through a few points also because I understand you have heard a lot of the same things over and over but really to get to the bottom line, Mayor Guinta made a promise during his campaign that he was going to cut wasteful spending. I haven't heard what that wasteful spending is yet. You told us that it is up the School Department the way we are structured and they are going to have to do the dirty work to identify that wasteful spending for you. Now I placed a call to your office and they told me well we only want to cut administration and we don't want to affect the students and the children. Tell me how that is done. Tell me how cutting these people who are doing such good work in the school system will not affect the students at the classroom level. I don't see it. The fact is according to the statistics from the NH Department of Education that we are well below the average in spending per student. The state average is \$9,100 per student and we are currently at \$7,400. That is their statistic. I haven't verified it but that is what I have been told. I am not arguing that we should chase that number and spend for spending's sake. That is not the point but what that number tells us is that this argument that I have heard from so many tonight that we have a bloated bureaucracy running our school system is fiction. Now can we cut something? Perhaps so. I would like to hear it. Identify the wasteful spending and I will support you in those cuts. I haven't heard it. Let me ask you. Are administrators who service the students in the schools wasteful? We had this discussion a couple of years ago and I heard arguments at the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, I believe it was the Finance Committee, where we talked about the number of Vice Principals in a particular school and the question was raised well how many can we get rid of? How many are we required by statute to have in each school and can we cut the number that we have? Well it sounds to me like we are having a race to the bottom and a race to the bottom serves

no one. Let me ask you this. Is maintenance of these new systems that we have installed in our schools, the heating and ventilation systems and the new alarm system and sprinkler system...is servicing those systems wasteful spending? These are the costs that are going to be cut. Someone said tonight how does a school become unsafe overnight. Well I will tell you. When you don't clear walkways and keep fire exits clear. When you have a sprinkler system that doesn't have monitoring of the alarm service. Those are real issues that will affect the schools and the safety of my daughter and I don't support it. Show me the wasteful spending Mayor and I will support you.

Tony Buteau, 533 Merrimack Street, Manchester stated:

Let me start with the dropout rate, the health of our schools and the lives of our young people. Is there anyone here who doesn't believe that this is a major problem? A problem that is not going away tomorrow or next week or next year? The health of our schools rests not only with the physical plant and materials that are needed or used in the classroom but also with the relationship between our teachers and their charges and what the student brings to the classroom and the distance that he or she has to go with the help of the teacher in order to be successful. Good learning, classroom size, support personnel, after school activities and other forms of influences on the students are focal points for all students especially for those who are in need. My words to you are based upon my experience in education. As a retired school teacher, for the past three years I have been working at Hillside School as a substitute teacher and a volunteer for special programs, such as Save the Salmon program, which we have all eighth grade students involved in presently. Prior to that I was a classroom instructor at McKelvie School in Bedford for 31 years. Also I was Associate Director of the Upward Bound Program, a poverty program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and during those years on a day-to-day basis we had to face not only the low income students but students who had no aspiration for anything in school who were potential dropouts and it was our charge to change that whole format around from no desire to having desire and from no access to how to work in school to how to become successful. If we the members of the Manchester community want the best for our students we must forward a budget that meets the needs of all our children. A healthy economic system for any town or city region starts in part with students enjoying and being successful in our schools. Not paying attention to encouraging our students to get as much as possible out of their school years and not making the greatest efforts to slow down and eventually halt the increase in the number of dropouts will extinguish what little life a young person has for success and eventually it will have a negative impact on the economic process of any community at all. I close with what I started with. Things that are facing us right now – the dropout rate, the health of our schools and the lives of our young people. Thank you very much.

Roy Shoults, 760 Somerville Street, Manchester stated:

I wanted to thank the Mayor and Aldermen and Alderwoman and I also wanted to let you all know that I give you all my permission to raise the taxes on that other gentleman. I also



wanted to inform all of those who are speaking for the educational interest groups that Jane Beaulieu doesn't like it. Now I am a retired social worker and I recall that when I was working in the Welfare Department, which means I am very dated, that was before all of the euphemisms came in, that I was working there for a Commissioner whom I respected very much and I thought was very good and very efficient but I was kind of surprised when at the end of the fiscal year she came around to all of us asking us after she had done her budget she needed some more to fill in and wanted us to put in whatever we could think of to pad the budget. Now I am saying this...this is from another state and I am sure they don't do this here in New Hampshire but what I feel is that all of my life and including today I have always cherished education and I use that word specifically. I also feel that efficiency is important and one of the things I feel...when I first read in the paper that the school budget or the ones that had proposed the school budget immediately said that they were going to fire or would have to fire 40 teachers or something like that I thought if that was the best that they could do, immediately come up with that, that either they were putting on some kind of fear tactic, and should be replaced or they were inept and should be replaced because you just can't take those that are there for the purpose of educating the children, which is the important thing, and fire them. It is like a general in a battle finding out he doesn't have all of the supplies or the money that he needs so he fires the infantrymen on the front line so he can pay the cook. I began to think what if it were proposed that those who did the school budget had to start by firing themselves, all of them, and they had to work on a budget which kept the quality education for the children and the related subjects and do all of the things for the children? Kept that in place and they couldn't put themselves back on salary until they could find the things that needed to be taken out of the budget that didn't effect the front lines of the children and they could still fit themselves into the salary. I felt that would be a good way to do it and then after that I thought about the cell phones. Now how did the cell phones help those children?

Richard Duckoff, 380 N. Bay Street, Manchester stated:

I am Vice Chairman of Friends of the Valley Cemetery and Mr. Wood had to step out early for personal reasons and as each and every one of you know we have had a significant amount of money included in the CIP budget for the Valley Cemetery and there is no sense in belaboring that tonight because I am sure that you have all been spoken to and will probably continue to be spoken to until that matter gets settled. So I don't want to guild the lily by getting into that tonight. I will say this. Coming here tonight to speak tonight about a man, Mayor Wieczorek, who was not known as being a spendthrift. Those of you who remember he was called other things but never a spendthrift. He brought a man into City government and that man he brought in in the late 90's. I first came to know that man when I was on the Executive Board of Manchester Neighborhood Housing and so was he. It was a time when Manchester Neighborhood Housing did a gut rehab of a major significant inner-city building at the corner of Union and Spruce Street and in the back of it the question was because crack was really rampant in those days and drugs were just ripe in the inner City so the question was what are we going to do about the lighting in the back because there will be

a lot of traffic going through from one street on to the other street and there will be a lot of deals being cut and how is this going to be lit. Well such things never...they were way under my radar screen. They were definitely nothing I had expertise in but this man was on the Executive Board with me and I learned the degree and amount of knowledge that he had about security and about the type of lighting and the amount of training he had and I was astounded. A little bit later I was on the Valley Cemetery and you may remember there was a tragic amount of vandalism that was done and a lot of gravestones were turned over. This same man now was working for the City, the man that Mayor Wieczorek appointed. He came into the cemetery and spent a colossal amount of time and advised us and helped in every possible way to add lighting to the cemetery so that vandalism is no longer taking place. Now I have learned in the past that all Aldermen can agree on one thing. If you come up with a good idea that costs no money you will all vote for it. I found that to be true at the Hartnett Parking lot when we had a curb cut, the City had a curb cut put in on Concord Street because that was the only street that didn't have one. I am going to appeal to you tonight that Red Robidas' name be kept in the budget for one reason and that his position be kept for one reason, he has saved the City money. It is one thing to change a horse in midstream if there are other horses but nobody has this man's talent and training in security and there will be other Homeland Security opportunities coming down and he has the experience with grant writing. He is not going to cost the City but is going to save the City money.

Leanne Howslower, Londonderry, stated:

I am here speaking on behalf of Stephanie DePietro who had to leave. I am a teacher in the Manchester School District. I would like to say that I am a graduate of Memorial High School. I have lived in Londonderry all of my life but back in the day there was no high school there and I came to Manchester and graduated. I spent time in this auditorium. Nobody has talked about kindergarten tonight. There is that famous book Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten. I would also like to speak on behalf of ESL and other very important programs. I work with both programs at Wilson School. Wilson School is one of our inner City schools and I don't know if anybody here knows...I am sure some of you do – School Board members and other teachers. The kindergarten program for Wilson School is not even located in the main building. Wilson School has no room for the program in its own building. The kindergarten program is located two blocks down the street at the Easter Seals building. Over there there is a very dedicated group of five kindergarten teachers who work with students – a very diverse population that is socio-economically disadvantaged. Many English Language Learners. Now one of the gentleman spoke earlier this evening about programs in California that don't make a difference. Well I beg to differ. I would like to say that the kindergarten and ESL programs at Wilson School do make a big difference. I have worked in Manchester for over 10 years with ESL programs across all grade levels, mainly at the primary level. I have worked in self-contained programs and I have provided supplemental services in many of the different schools. I have seen a big difference in kindergarten services. Children who come into our program who do not have the advantage of attending kindergarten and receiving appropriate services at an early age are

behind. There is an additional cost to that. Many of the English Language Learners who do not attend kindergarten need to go into self-contained programs. If children's needs can be met at the kindergarten level they can be mainstreamed and integrated into the regular classrooms much quicker. I didn't come with notes tonight because I wasn't prepared to speak. Let me just catch my thoughts for a minute and see what else I wanted to say. I guess to wrap it up I would like to say that we should move forward and not back. Services are needed, not less services. The reality and a lot of people have drawn the analogy of Chicken Little crying wolf and what is myth and what is reality. The reality is and people are saying these are scare tactics but in Nashua 65 teachers have already gotten their non-renewal notices. Is this going to happen in Manchester?

Kathleen Kirwin, 15 Townhouse Road, Manchester stated:

I am the Librarian at McDonough Elementary School. I think we have fairly covered a lot of the reasons why we are all looking for the school budget to be fixed. I would like to add a couple of thoughts though. The question about the \$1 million being returned from the District every year and how could we do that – good question I would like to know too. I work in a Library that has a zero dollar budget. We have four elementary schools with a zero dollar budget. The plan to fix that was Barnes & Noble was supposed to donate \$7,000 worth of books in January. It is May and nothing has come in. There are a lot of funding issues in the schools that aren't being addressed. Drive around the City. Is there a single elementary school left in the City that doesn't have trailers outside? Our kids don't fit in the buildings. I don't think that is asking for excessive pie in the sky wants. Our kids don't fit in the building. Our administration has prided itself lately on servicing all of the kids with special needs regardless of the level or kind. That is lovely but you are forgetting the service part. They are in the schools and we are lacking aides and programs. I am not here to scare anybody. I am the Librarian and two weeks ago I was attacked by a student who uses their fingernails to gauge my hands to where they bled and he bit me twice. I also had bruises up and down my legs where he kicked me with boots. I am the Librarian but we don't have an EH program with any room to put him in. That is one...I could give you a list of kids. We are not servicing the children to the way that we are legally responsible to service them. Whether you like special needs payments or not we are legally obligated to provide services to these children. They deserve a safe and healthy place for our students and teachers to be. While our buildings are so overcrowded that we have 15 or 20 minute lunch periods so we can get them out of there and they don't fit in the building. We have them in trailers outside. That is not okay.

Steve Prisby, Bow NH stated:

I am a teacher at the PASS Program at the Manchester School of Technology. First I wholeheartedly support Cindy Thibeault, my co-worker who preceded me here at the mic and her endorsement of Jim Schubert, the PASS Program Director. That the City would consider cutting the position of a man who has done so much for so many kids for so long to me is quite worrisome and very short sighted. Of greater concern to me, however, is this

short sightedness is indicative of what is happening in the big picture. I fail to see how cuts in education lead to increased quality of life in one's community. With the dropout rates already soaring in Manchester, how does the overcrowding classrooms and overburdening teachers contribute to success for the students in the classroom? It doesn't. With budget cuts in education, dropout rates will soar producing a generation of unemployed, uneducated and unskilled kids. These are not qualities that foster quality of life. Real leadership calls not for short sightedness but for foresight and courage. It is my hope that the leaders of this community will strongly reconsider these budget cut proposals and do what is truly in the best interest of Manchester residents. Thank you.

Ricky Chickering, 83 Blutchter Street, Manchester stated:

I just want to say that I congratulate our Mayor for doing what he needs to do. We need to cut taxes at the administration level, not just to hurt anyone but everybody needs to put a little bit in what we need to take care of the City. He brought more Police for crime. If you look outside at your alleyways there is paper and trash and we need to take care of that too. Not only just worry about schools but worry about the whole City in general. Thank you and have a nice night.

Joan Flurey, 234 Holly Avenue, Manchester stated:

I am not here to scare anybody. I would urge all of you to get a library card if you don't have one. It is a wonderful place. I wasn't here to talk about the Library but since everybody else has said a lot of the things I wanted to say I will say this. Hearing about the PASS program I can't even think of that to be gone from this City. It has saved so many of our students that it would be a travesty. I am not going to worry because I am sure that with Mr. Gatsas' leadership here, he tried to lead you in Concord and he can do it with this Board. Don't let the PASS program go. The Library needs to stay. I am concerned because there are a lot of people...I am 30 years teaching and I don't think I am ready to retire yet. This year I have been very active with the curriculum because our kids were failing. When we established a new curriculum it was because of NCLB with BOSC because we are DINI. A lot of people don't understand. The average people, you ask them what is No Child Left Behind and they say well that is the thing. I challenge some of you. Do you really know what No Child Left Behind is? Do you know what DINI is? Do you know at a GLE is and a GSE? There are people working in this City. There are parents that need to know this and if we educate everybody in terms of this then we will understand. We need every penny that they asked for in the budget. I challenge you to go and follow these people that you want to cut. Follow them for the day. Follow somebody like Chris Martin. Follow her on her forklift when she is going to that big warehouse. Drive that foolish truck that I think you should change. Go with her when she makes her deliveries at the schools. Go with CJ and see what she does for the day and see if you can cut her position. I don't think so. I am very unnerved about that. I also want to think that I am doing a wonderful job along with 1,000 other people in this District. For you to think that we could do it for even less with this No Child Left Behind is absolutely insane. We have responsibilities that our federal government

tells us with No Child Left Behind. We have the responsibilities from the State Department of Education so we have to do something. You have to do something. You have to train us and give us professional development. Finally I think I am going to take this whole business of the budget back to my math classes and show them how money can be misrepresented and misspent. Thank you very much.

Frank Weaver, 8 Derry Street, Manchester stated:

While I was listening to the radio this morning I was told that it was Teacher's Day, not only here but in the whole country and the announcer also added that next to the child's parents the teacher was the one who had the most influence in a child's life. I think that is something we should all bear in mind here tonight. I have been aware of it now for 18 years, ever since my youngest son started school here in Manchester. He was just about considered hopeless at the beginning but thanks to really, really dedicated educators for instance at Hallsville School and now at Central he has gotten A's and B's for the last four years and yes, I am very proud of him and I thank you all in the educational system from the bottom of my heart for what you have done for my son. You have made me very happy. Don't, please don't cut education. Education is the one thing above and beyond all that we need. Our children are not going to tread water here while the rest of the children in the world learn how to swim. We are facing a global economy. Our children are now competing with every other child in the world and if we want to stay first in the world, in a changing world, we are going to have to equip our children to compete in that world. Cut other services if you must but please don't cut education. Thank you.

Elizabeth Jones, 68 Arah Street, Manchester stated:

Thank you all for listening for so long and so patiently. I have been a taxpayer for 25 years. I am also the President of CHAMP, which is Central High Association of Musical Parents. It is not the parents that are musical but the kids. Music education is the thing I am here to plug tonight. We raise money for ladders that the drum majors stand on to play at every single home football game. We raise money for uniforms for the chorus and the orchestra. We raise money for fees to pay musicians to come and enrich the student's education in music. Last year we raised \$15,000 to purchase a \$35,000 shell, which McAlister Hall in Central desperately needed. We raised this money because the budget in the music department is presently inadequate and your proposal would even further cut that budget. It is my understanding that the position now held by Chris Martin will be one of those cut and I can only assume that her duties will be taken over by the other music teachers who are already desperately overworked or the principals who really don't have the background to do what she does. This position has been around for years and somehow we have managed to afford it. I don't see why we can't continue to do that. The community is not at all shy about asking the school's bands and choruses to perform at any number of events and I think the community should also fund the music department that creates such excellent groups. I don't think that any part of the school budget should be cut but music is always the first to go as well as the arts and I would really urge you not to have the cuts that would force the

School Department to cut the music. Music provides a mode of expression and a way to excel for many students who cannot distinguish themselves in other ways. It gives them a way to stand out at different colleges even if they are not interested in continuing in a career of music. Our children are the most valuable resource that we have and they deserve the best education that we can provide them. It is very short sighted and dangerous to give Manchester school students a second rate education, which is what these proposed cuts will do. It is obvious that you cannot provide the same degree of services with a substantially reduced amount of money. It was said tonight that it was unconscionable for the School Board to advise teachers that their positions would be cut but it is not if it is true and I see no way that the School Board can continue to have as many services and teachers than they have now with substantially less money. As the first speaker said, ignorance is far more expensive than the money that you propose to save with these cuts. The savings to each individual are so small but the loss and the cost to the community is so great. It is penny wise and pound foolish. I have to ask are we a bunch of individuals with just a concern for our wallet or are we a community that supports itself and each other? I would urge you if you need to make cuts to make them someplace other than education. Thank you.

Madeleine Staub, 374 Laurel Street, Manchester stated:

I am a Junior at Central High School. Mayor Guinta I talked to you a few months ago concerning your plans for education. I asked you how you planned on improving education or keeping it about the same while creating tax cuts. You told me you would look into the efficiency of the School District. I thought okay efficiency is good although it doesn't seem very efficient to let the new additions in the schools sit empty because we don't have teachers to fill them and it doesn't seem efficient to renovate Gill Stadium and then nobody uses it because we can't afford to pay for it. You also said you wanted to keep what we needed and eliminate what we didn't need. I thought, all right that will work. So we don't need clean schools and we don't need freshman sports. We don't even need athletics at all. We don't need small classes. We don't need video production classes. Heck, we don't even need foreign language classes. They aren't a state requirement. But you know what? A kid that is hoping to go to college on a lacrosse scholarship needs to play in high school. Students who don't perform well in their first years of high school because they have experienced tragedies need the alternative education programs. A student who has to help support his or her family needs the Ombudsman program. A kid who wants to have a career in television needs MCTV to practice. I need smaller discussion based classes to get accepted into competitive colleges. By only funding the things you think we need, you are ruining countless opportunities for the students of Manchester. I understand you aren't the ones choosing what will be cut but you must consider that the cost of running a school increase each year and if you give the District almost the same amount as last year they definitely cannot improve the schools, let alone keep them the same. The first time I met you I also thought you seemed like a good guy with good plans for the City. Don't prove me wrong. To the rest of you, you can't let this budget pass. You represent Manchester and

represent the students because we can't. We can't vote and it is a longshot that any one of us will find \$1 million in our pockets when they come out of the dryer.

Robert Tarr, 318 Spruce Street, Manchester stated:

I am a current Co-Chairperson for the Wilson School parent group and also on the DINI project for the professional team working on a current master plan for the School District. I am also on several other non-profit organizations and I have sat in with some of those organizations with some of you Aldermen as well. I am here tonight because as we talk about the budget we hear a lot of things. We haven't really talked about a solution or other alternatives. I will bring one up tonight that I have here. It is called the A+ Program and I am sure some of you have heard of the program through Stop n' Shop. As you purchase groceries at the store, points are awarded for the groceries you buy. At the end of the program, which usually runs up until June or May, after the points are awarded there is money that is turned into those points. That money is then given to the schools for the schools use in whatever they see fit. As this current time, Wilson School has generated over \$4,000 in the A+ program just from one corporation here in Manchester. That money will be utilized to help bring scholastic news and other reading materials into the school to help the school's education. What does this mean to Manchester as a whole? It means that if you took the 21 schools and multiplied it by \$4,000 that each school would raise through the A+ program from just one corporation, that is \$84,000 a year saved. How does that help? Think about it. If \$84,000 comes from one corporation to support all of the schools, that \$84,000 is also reflected in the principal's budget, which is also reflected in the school's budget, which means now the school does not have to allocate even more money. They can save money. So again we need to look at alternatives. We need to look at other corporations who are willing to work with us as a community, as a whole and as a group. The Stop n' Shop Corporation came into the City. They bought out Vista Foods. They replenished and revitalized the plaza. It is growing and thriving and even better. It is bringing revenue into the City. They in turn like I said brought in the A+ program. Now they are helping the education. Hannaford helps and is doing the same thing. Again, saving money. We need not cut education or special classes or the things the students need. What we need to do is look at these corporations who are willing to help us as we help them. We purchase groceries and they give us something in return. That is a win-win situation for all of us. We need to look at that. Tonight I urge all of you, Aldermen and the Mayor, to look at these alternatives and in the next six weeks find the sources needed to keep everything in check. Thank you.

Kathy Staub, 374 Laurel Street, Manchester stated:

I am the President of the Manchester Coalition for Quality Education. I am in my 11<sup>th</sup> year as a parent in the Manchester school system. It has been about seven years since I have attended a budget hearing here at Memorial High School and I have to hand it to you, Mayor, you really know how to get more people interested in the process of local government. For those of you who were not here seven years ago and those of you who have never had

children in the Manchester public school system I would like to remind people what it was like seven years ago when the same type of mindset for an austere budget for the School District was in place. My daughter was in a fourth grade class with 28 kids. Every time it rained the school's roof leaked in a different place and Alderman Pinard knows because he was on that roof. My friend, Peter Duffy, who you heard earlier was out begging the business community for donated copy paper so that we could make it through to the end of the school year and Bob Baines, remember him, he was telling parents at West High School to bring flashlights with them to open house because there was no one responsible for changing the lightbulbs. That is what it was like seven years ago. Now this isn't rhetoric and it isn't scare tactics. What this is is history. I know because I lived through it. Now I am sensitive to the fact that when your house is now worth \$200,000 an additional \$1 on the tax rate is a lot of money especially if you are on a fixed income and I am totally sensitive to that but I have been an activist in the School District for five years now and in that period I have seen great changes and right now, right now we are on the verge. I see the ice breaking up. I think that within the next couple of years things are going to happen in the School District. The community is finally becoming connected with the School District and the changes that are going to be made are going to affect student achievement and we are going to see positive student achievement. I don't think we can afford to go back to where we were before. I was reading a statistic the other day. First of all, four out of five men in the state prison are high school dropouts. We have three high schools that have some of the highest dropout rates in the state. The other day I was reading the report, the Silent Epidemic that was funded by the Gates Foundation and they said for every dropout who goes into a life of crime the cost to the community is between \$1.7 and \$2.3 million over the course of their lifetime. So you pay now or you pay a lot more later. Now I know that this is a real difficult...I know with the revaluation that this is going to be difficult. I got hammered in the last revaluation and I know people are really worried about it but I think that we cannot set a budget based on political posturing or rhetoric or really not considering what it is going to mean. We have to sharpen our pencils and sit down and come up with some kind of a compromise that will maintain the quality of our schools without really overburdening the taxpayers and I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you tonight and I hope that you will make a fair and good decision for all of us and I appreciate the time that you have taken tonight to listen to us all. Thank you.

Andy Kyriakoutsakos, 141 Pine Street, stated:

I am a special education teacher at Highland Goffs Falls Elementary School and also the MEA Vice President. As a special education teacher, I know the demands on our staff to meet the educational and social needs of all students. Schools must provide a quality education program through its personnel, teachers and support staff. We need a highly competent and trained staff to work in this urban environment where we have a diverse student population, all of whom require equal access to a quality education. We do not support the elimination of teachers and support staff, nor the programs that are specifically tailored to meet the needs of students who are at risk of dropping out of school. Cutting staff



will only hurt our students educational opportunities. The Mayor, the School Board and Aldermen should avoid political haggling and stick to the facts that should be made available to all. It is time for the School Board members and School administration, the Mayor and the Aldermen to work together to reach a budget number that everyone can leave with. Lay-off notices by contract will be sent out no later than May 10. The MEA hopes that a budget compromise can be reached before then or otherwise our children's education will be compromised. Thank you.

Robert Barry, 51 W. Elmwood Avenue, Manchester stated:

What is Superintendent Ludwell costing the School District or we the taxpayers of Manchester? \$13,600 a month with his perks and his SUV provided by SAU 37. \$450/month to put gasoline in it along with a very tidy sum, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$5,000 a year tucked away into a tax deferred account annually plus four weeks vacation, sick days, bereavement leave, plus, plus, plus. I think we can cut at the top. He also has three assistants. They are costing the taxpayers of \$2,200 each per week. That is with their perks. Their perks include 80% paid health benefits, 90% paid dental benefits and if the School Department can afford to pay these salaries and benefits, they can make due with a paltry \$143 million. They can make due with a lot less than that. If they cut...his Chief Financial Officer also has a salary of \$94,000 plus an amount of \$30,000 or more per year in perks and benefits. These five employees cost the taxpayers over \$600,000 per year. I think we can do with a few less administrators and I think we can spend a few more bucks on schoolbooks and on teacher salaries. Thank you very much.

Michael Farley, 83 Constant Street, Manchester stated:

Thank you all for staying so long to listen to all of this. I am here to add my voice to the overwhelming chorus of voices who have asked the Mayor to increase the funding that he proposes for the School District. I grew up in this City. I lived in this City when Josephat Benoit was Mayor. It was the end of his career but I have seen this City...I grew up and went to this high school in the 70's and graduated from this high school in 1977 and I can remember when Manchester was known as...one newspaper reported it as a hard scrabble town and there was urban renewal projects everywhere. We were a model City and we were struggling to come out of a very depressed existence and it has taken years and years of hard work and Board upon Board of Aldermen and Board upon Board of School Committee and Mayor upon Mayor and with a few fits and starts we have managed to turn this City not only into the Queen City of the State of NH but the Queen City of New England and we are on the edge of becoming a great City. I think we are a great City and I would like to keep it that way. My point is this. There are a lot of people here and I am sure if there were more still here many of them would remember how Manchester used to be. We can't turn our backs on where Manchester is going and just hope that we can pay 1950's prices for the requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. You have all waited a long time. I could not speak any more eloquently than those kids that came up and talked about those special programs that may help one or two or three or ten or twenty kids. When my kids were in the Manchester school system,

those weren't available and I needed them. I needed them and they weren't there. My grandson is in the first grade at Northwest Elementary School right now. I hope he doesn't need them but I want them to be there if any of his classmates do. Education should be the first priority of this Board. Please don't let this parsimonious education line item pass. Give the education system what it needs and I think that you can be very comfortable having heard all of the people that came in here, the vast overwhelming majority of them are saying the same thing. Don't make a mistake. Do the right thing. This is not about a campaign promise. This is about a City where people have lived for a long time and will live for a lot longer and it will be a lot better if you do the right thing. Thank you.

Jennie Angell, 94 Everett Street, Manchester stated:

I have been a City employee for 26 years. I am not going to talk tonight about my office. I am going to talk about Manchester. I was born here. I was educated in the public schools here. I went to Wilson School and graduated from Memorial High School. I was probably the only high school student that Arthur Mirabile ever actually left at some band function in some strange city. My six-year-old son is in the first grade at Webster School. When I was young Manchester's downtown was a thriving center of activity with many stores, restaurants, offices and overcrowded buses. Then the mills closed and the malls were built and we had the largest one day bank takeover in the country and this City 15 years ago and I have worked downtown for 26 but 15 years ago most of the downtown storefronts were empty. The Millyard had many empty decaying buildings and we all know that empty commercial buildings pay less property taxes. There were no restaurants. Even McDonalds moved out. All of the buildings on Merrimack Street between Pine Street and Union Street were boarded up and were active crack houses. We had burned out buildings that stood for years. If you remember the building that was on the corner of Auburn and Pine Street that was there forever and ever. There were hookers soliciting right across the street from my office. You could buy anything across the street from my office. One morning when we came to work, yes we did call the Police because there was a dead body across the street from the entrance to my office. There was a serial arsonist setting fires and when you went to register your car it took three hours. We had a hiring freeze and it took three hours to register your car in the City of Manchester. Manchester was going the way of Detroit and the property values in Manchester were lower than any of the surrounding communities. Nobody wanted to live here. Because of some wise decisions and a lot of hard work, Manchester has made great strides on its way to becoming a success story. I commend the past administrations, the four Mayors including Baines and Wieczorek, the Boards, the Aldermen, the City department heads, their deputies, the City employees and citizens and business owners of this community and their dedication and hard work has brought Manchester back. The Millyard is full. We have restaurants and our tax base is solid. Manchester is becoming a desirable destination and a success story. We aren't there yet however. Outsiders still consider us a dirty City and the School Department is diligently working on a two-year plan to improve our schools. We still have much work to do. I feel that if we stop investing in ourselves we will sink back down into the abyss. I consider the

extra taxes it might cost me an investment into my future like the 401K. When I get old and it is time to sell the price that I will get for my house is directly related to the quality of life in the City. If I pay a little extra now I will have a better life today but I will get money back tomorrow. I would rather pay a few extra dollars in taxes to have cleaner streets, better maintained parks and schools and higher test scores. I am making a passionate plea to this Board. Please let's continue to move this City forward.

Yvette Marquis, 99 Hanover Street, stated:

I am here tonight because I didn't want to miss the opportunity to say publicly to the Mayor and Aldermen a big thank you for all of the past funding that you have given for the home care elderly program in Manchester. In 2004 and 2005 with less than \$100 per year per client in City funds home care was able to allow your most frail residents to remain in their homes safely or for some of them to die in their homes in dignity. I wish that all of the 85+ seniors in Manchester were as alert and independent as the 94-year-old woman who spoke earlier tonight, Alice. If they were all like Alice I could go home and retire and I wouldn't have to worry about the future but they are not. Tonight I just want to remind the Mayor and Aldermen that we are not there yet when it comes to the service to the elderly in this City. Before I left my office tonight I had 44 Manchester elderly on my home care waiting list. Some have been on that waiting list for more than one year. Why the long wait? Because their monthly income...we have heard about salaries in the \$40,000 and \$50,000 and \$90,000 range tonight. Well these elderly are on the waiting list because their monthly income is a few dollars over the \$900/month that we allow them to receive services from the state. I want to tell you specifically about Paul. Paul is a 94-year-old who has raised seven children in the City of Manchester. He has paid taxes on his little house, taxes that keep going up year after year. He has done this now for 72 years. He is on my waiting list. He really, really does not understand why he cannot get just a tiny, tiny little bit of help before he dies. Before I came here tonight I had a job orientation at my office. Twenty-three Manchester residents from the age of 22 to 71 applied for an 8-hour no benefit job. I really appreciate every single dollar that you have given us in the past but you might want to consider that with a few more dollars Paul, your nana, your pepere, your grandmother, your uncle, your old neighbor may not be on the waiting list and I would be able to hire some of those people who desperately need the low paying jobs. Thank you.

Paul R.R. Martineau, 265 Edward J. Roy Drive, Manchester stated:

I am the elected Welfare Commissioner for the City of Manchester. What I want to talk about is the Mayor talks about running the City like a business. I couldn't agree with him more. My department and other departments have been doing exactly that – looking for efficiencies and also streamlining our departments. My department has returned millions to the City by doing away with Welfare abuse and fraud. Last March I did away with a Deputy position, saving \$67,000 and that is going to keep going on because that position will never be filled. I am going to lose one person here with this budget and it is less than that \$67,000 and that upsets me because we are a team at my department and people work together and

they help each other and when you eliminate the position it affects the morale of those people and they start thinking wait a minute who is going to be next next year or we are not valued and we are just a number. It is not just my department. The Tax Collector, Joan Porter, has been doing a heck of a job. She has had innovative programs to help people pay their taxes and collect the money and so forth. She is going to lose two positions. Information Systems, probably one of the best service departments in the City...when I was an Assessor I worked 12 years with them back in 1980 when they started and whenever something goes wrong with our computers or our phones they are right there and doing the job. They are going to lose five highly technical positions. The City Clerk...over the years Leo has been streamlining his department. He is going to lose four positions. HR. She has been streamlining and she is going to lose two highly technical positions – a security officer and the union representative, the person who does the negotiations. What I am saying is it is like we are being penalized for doing exactly what the Mayor talks about. That is not fair. What I would like to say is this. My father was an Alderman for 20 years. He was a fiscal conservative. He had the political courage to vote his conscience. I ask you people here tonight ponder what has been said, think about it and do the right thing. I know that if you amend the Mayor's budget one of the things that is going to come back is well we had a supposed tax cut but now the Aldermen amended it and changed it and they are the fall guy. You know what? Do the right thing. Thank you.

Sandra Paradis, 33 Karin Street, Manchester stated:

I have been married 48 years and we have been paying taxes about 46 years. I came across a bill the other day that was interesting. In 1960 we paid \$140 for a five room Cape down in South Manchester, no garage. \$140 we paid for taxes. I can just see this year that number will be probably \$4,100. You all know me. I am pro-art and pro-music and pro-athletics and I always have been from the time I went to Bakersville School until now and I still will be until the end of my day for sure because I believe that all of those components what they do is they make a better rounded education for the students. I found that with my three children. We have a great state and a great City I think. My two children who live in the state, Hooksett and Goffstown, would have built their homes or bought their homes in Manchester if they had more land. They were used to a big yard. For 25 years we had a big yard in South Manchester and they wanted land and there is not much land left in Manchester. But things have changed. From \$140 to \$4,100 for taxes in 47 years. Everything changes. I have seen a lot of progress and my parents, grandparents rather, were immigrants who came here...the Paradis's came here in 1910 and the Dubisz's came here in 1911. Our families have stayed here for generations. We have seen a lot of changes and as one of the ladies who just spoke about 15 or 20 minutes ago the history of Manchester and what she saw on Pine Street and how our downtown was very, very vibrant many years ago when I was a teenager and growing up and then it all changed. There was a fire station on South Elm Street near Bakersville School when I built my house and then all of the sudden we have Queen City Avenue and in my son's bedroom you could hear the trucks putting on their brakes and it was like they were going to come right through his bedroom at night. He is a fireman today

and I wonder why. He is used to the noise that's for sure. Anyway, to make a long story short everything that I heard tonight regarding education I believe in. I always have and I always will but there was a budget of \$146 million that was put forth by five members of the Finance Committee, including my Alderman, Doug Kruse who was the Chairman and I wonder how many of you actually went through that budget. I know the Mayor has because he is the Chairman of the School Board but how many of you actually looked at that budget, that \$146 million budget that five members worked nine sessions, which in the 14 years that I was on the School Board we never had that many sessions and for 8 of those 14 years I was on the Finance Committee and I think the most we had was probably three sessions on a Saturday or something like that. To me that \$146 million that they were promoting be passed at the full School Board meeting that did not pass, I would like you to take a good look at that budget and if you can't see fit to do the \$148 million then look at that \$146 million and see what they put in there and what they had to take out and so on because they worked so hard on that budget. I am sure there is something in there that will be valuable to all of you and I am hoping to see the Aldermen and the School Finance Committee get together and work things out. We have a great state and we have a great City and let's keep it that way.

Lorraine Dubisz, 46 Kennedy Street, Manchester stated:

I have been at my residence for over 35 years. I pay taxes. I had children go through the public school system. Two of my children graduated here from Memorial. My husband and I were very active in the Booster Club because we believed in the schools and what they do for children and how they help and how parents working with teachers can make a big difference in our children's lives. Most of the children spend a lot more time with their teachers as they grow up then they probably do most anywhere else. They are off to school in the morning and they come back sometime mid afternoon and in a lot of ways teachers can be a very helping hand to our children. Most of us here I am sure either are children or have children or have grandchildren or have nephews and nieces. I have several grandchildren in the school system now. I am here to promote the budget for the schools. I totally feel that investing in our children is the best investment that any of us can do. Invest in our children and our future or spend it in our court systems on juvenile delinquents and later in jails and prisons. Spend it now on our children to raise them and give them an education so they can become citizens of this City and be someone who can go to work, earn money, buy homes and pay taxes. What goes around comes around. Thank you.

Phil Vancellette, 725 Portland Street, Rochester stated:

I am an employee of the Information Systems Department. First of all I would like to apologize. I only spent about half an hour or so thinking about what I wanted to say but I believe that may be more time than the Mayor spent putting together this budget. I know that may sound a little disrespectful but respect is a two-way street and I don't think you have shown the employees of the City of Manchester nor the citizens the respect they deserve. Now why do I say that? Well first of all I don't think you have been completely

truthful and I think that is something that must exist in the Office of the Mayor. You must be truthful with the people and your employees. Another thing is I don't think you have done your homework. I don't think you have put a lot of effort into this budget. I think you thought you could step in, make these cuts and it would all happen and everything would be good. Well that is not the way it works and I would like to say to the citizens who have stated that they are concerned about their pocketbooks, everybody is concerned about their pocketbooks. I am a taxpayer. I expect the Mayor of Rochester that I voted for to go in and do his homework. If there are inefficiencies to do away with those but also at the same time show respect to the employees and citizens and be truthful. Why do I think the Mayor has been deceitful? Let me give you a few examples. He stated that he met with every department head before giving his speech introducing his budget. He never met with our department head at Information Systems. She learned that night while listening to the speech that five positions would be cut from her department. There were other people there that night that heard their names mentioned for the first time learning that their positions were going to be eliminated. They had never heard this before. That is not showing your employees respect. Quite frankly I don't know what you were trying to do by doing that. Also, he made a statement that he had an expert analyze the Information Systems Department and he went over and said there was obviously some inefficiency there. Our department has now asked you and I am going to say four or five times for who this expert is and what were his recommendations. I mean you owe it to our department head to give her that information so she can better work with the recommendations that you are making. There are no details in this budget. There are no details. We need the details. Mr. Mayor I ask you...first of all please provide our department head with that information she is requesting and please provide the citizens with details. How did you come to this decision? I read in the paper today that you looked over the organizational chart for the Library and decided that they can do the job without the positions you are cutting. How did you come to that conclusion? Give them some detail. Give them some information. You owe that to them. These are people's lives you are talking about. People are going to lose jobs and also I think the citizens will find that in a couple of years they are going to be paying more taxes. Property values are going to go down. I mean that is how it works. If you cut things like the School Department people don't want to work here. Another example of how much thought went into this, he made a statement that he is cutting the Web Administrator then he comes out with a statement saying well what we are going to do is we will cut five people from Information Systems but we will do more things on line. That is how we will make up for this. Well you can't do that if you cut the Web Administrator. He is cutting the LAN Administrator. The LAN Administrator is a network engineer. We have one of the most sophisticated networks in the state of NH. Our network...things like Police and Fire dispatch, depend on our network. If you cut that position you are putting the citizens at risk. You obviously didn't think about this. I am guessing you thought we all just sat there and waited for calls on a hard drive failing or something like that. That is not how it works and I think all of these decisions...the Police Department...Thank you.

Monique Brown, 250 Riverbank Road, Manchester stated:

Thank you for this opportunity to be able to speak to you tonight. I know it is late. Everyone is getting tired. I can see the glazed looks in the eyes here. I will keep this brief. My reason for being here tonight is to talk about the Library. I am the Chairperson for the Foundation Board, which we are the fundraising arm for the Library to help support what the budget cannot meet. Unfortunately we only can do so much. Whatever our donors give back we try to give...it all goes back to the Library for whatever their wishlist items are. I ask you to really consider everything that you are looking at tonight. Not just for the Library but for the schools and for public safety. Let's not turn everything back here. Let's keep things moving forward in the City. It has grown. It continues to grow. The children's futures are at heart here. I know I am going to have two sons graduating next month from this school. They have gone through the Manchester school system but with that said please keep in mind the Manchester City Library and the cutbacks that you are really thinking about. There are several people's jobs at heart here and it is important that you not take those away. Thank you.

Kathleen Forbush, 104 Weston Road, Manchester stated:

I am here tonight because this meeting is all about allowing the public to be heard in regards to the budget. I am here to represent someone who isn't able to come and speak tonight, which is my grandmother. She is an MCTV consumer. She is 88 years old. She has lived in Manchester since she was in her 20's, my age, and she absolutely loves MCTV and she wanted me to represent her on a few points, which after hearing much tonight seem small but she still wants her words heard. She wants me to talk about how MCTV...when she heard that it could possibly be cut from the budget she said that it, in fact, should not be cut but should be expanded because MCTV allows the average citizen to learn and be a part of the City's government, politics, local business and future of Manchester. MCTV is a diamond in the rough and it gives a voice to the public and it allows citizens to be producers of their own shows. This allows many people who aren't here tonight to see this meeting and it has allowed many people to be involved in your job. It is a very powerful teaching tool and my grandmother thinks it is very beneficial to students. It is a vital way for the senior citizens of Manchester to stay informed, stay connected, entertain and engage in City and State affairs. Thank you.

Arthur Adamakos, 1196 Union Street, Manchester stated:

Good evening and thank you for coming here this evening and listening to everyone. I really...you could probably guess what I am going to be talking about but not really because I changed my approach at least four times in the four and a half hours I have been waiting to speak. I just want to alert you to two things. Information on one and a request on the other. I am going to keep it really simple and Carol you won't even have to put the light on. We will save the City some electricity. The first thing that really concerns me the most is the constant statement that our City high schools are failing. It really bothers me because that couldn't be farther from the truth. As a matter of fact the reason I gave you some handouts is

because it is important that you know that right now we are basing our adequate yearly progress on an examination that was never meant to be used for that purpose. The reason we use it is because we don't have anything else to use. I just want you to know that this week is the last week we will ever be giving that test again because we are going to the NECAPS in the fall. So that test that I have always viewed as a flawed examination, which keeps Memorial High School not making AYP really is a misrepresentation of what is going on in the School District. The first two pages that I gave you just for your own reference...our college attendance rate couldn't be higher. It is the highest it has ever been. Mrs. Staub said the dropout rate is out of this world. It is the lowest it has ever been in the history of Manchester, at least for Memorial High School and as recently as a month ago we found out that the state was counting our PASS and Ombudsman people twice. So they were inflating our dropout rate for the City of Manchester. It is actually lower than what was projected. Memorial's last year was 4.1%. The second thing is I look at all of our standardized testing. We are doing great with that. If you look at the attendance rate we couldn't be happier with that. The dropout rate is the lowest thing. All of the sudden we keep on hearing how poorly we are doing. That just aggravates me to no end and I want you to make sure and you heard it from me first that we are doing our job in the School District and for some people to use one examination that we are not going to be using after this week as a basis for whether we are going to be making federal AYP progress or not is just beyond belief. That is one thing. The second thing is this. What I am primarily concerned about is the looks on the faces of the people that I work with and the looks on the faces of the kids with regards to where the dust will fall and where everything will settle with regards to our budget. What really concerns me is this. We are in our two-year phase of our accreditation report with the schools and colleges. The last two pages I am giving you are basically the letter that has been given to me that I had to respond to by October 1 and it has me a little bit concerned. As a matter of fact we made so much progress in the last four years they have applauded us for that but they said hey wait a minute we want to make sure that the following things you respond to. Report on the progress to diminish class size. I need two more teachers. Am I going to get them? I doubt it. Secondly, the hiring of an additional guidance counselor. Am I going to get that person? I doubt that. The third thing is the funding of the technology plan. We are now forced as a result of this year to teach a curriculum that the state has now mandated on machines that are older than the incoming freshman. The Class of 2010. They are working on Pentium I's and II's down there. I don't know if Intel even has the parts for that. I am asking you please...I am really concerned about accreditation. This is a seven-year program. We are only four years into it. I am really concerned about how the budget cuts or whatever the budget is is going to affect how I can meet our accreditation. Please do your best job and see that we don't lose that and we don't go on probation like the two other schools in the state of NH are, which is last page. I don't want a star next to Manchester Memorial High School as a result of funding. Those other two schools don't make it as a result of the building, not funding. Thank you very much.



Lionel LeBlanc, 203 Belmont Street, Manchester stated:

I am very fond of my Alderman Bill Shea. We played baseball together when we were youngsters. Our Mayor awhile back got in touch with all of the department heads and he said we are going to start with a zero budget. You made them face reality. He wanted to know how they arrived at last year's budget. That was very nice of you. Health insurance premiums are one of the things that really concern me. People who make \$100,000 should pay all of their health insurance premium. Anybody making \$50,000 should pay 50% of the premiums. With all of the increases in the cost of living we can no longer afford to subsidize the benefits that go to City employees. They are lucky they have employment that is paid by the taxpayers guaranteed. Only the money agreed to in the contracts that is taken out for retirement purposes. The last three years the City employees make it a point to put in a lot of overtime. The result is that they end up with bigger retirement. Your Superintendent of Schools should have only one assistant. The taxpayers pay the salary of the assistant. Each Assistant Superintendent has a staff, which adds another expense paid by the taxpayers. Thank you.

Nick Want, 623 Belmont Street, Manchester stated:

I have had the opportunity to chat with you guys before. I guess as an Administrative Board that is responding to your bosses, which are the people in the City of Manchester and particularly to the Mayor you have listen to the people that are talking. We have had tonight a lot of people come up and talk in front of everybody here to everybody and to you. The minority of people have come up here and talked about a tax cut. Taxes that they want returned to them. The majority of the people have talked about interests that are special to the entire community and the City of Manchester. They are not special interests to one individual group of people. The Mayor was elected by a vocal minority. The majority is speaking tonight. You have an opportunity, Mayor, to listen to the people of Manchester and the Board to listen to the people of Manchester and support the will of the City of Manchester. Even though the City of Manchester may not have voted that way, it is now speaking that way. Please consider all of the statements that have been made tonight and the positions that people are addressing and decide to move forward with a budget that supports the will of the City of Manchester. Thank you.

Abdusalam Jama, 104 Dunbarton Road, Manchester stated:

Mr. Mayor and Aldermen I am glad to be with you here tonight. I am a graduate student of the School of Community Development at Southern NH University. I am here on behalf of the Somali community but whatever is true for the Somali community is also true for all of the African refugees and also for the refugees from all over the world. Something I realized tonight...well I knew it before but from where I came from usually we do not talk to our leaders like this. They just talk to us. I am glad that you guys give us this opportunity to talk to you. In fact, I have met with the Mayor before and he was really...he has great passion for the refugees and for my knowledge there is some sort of program like enhancement for

refugee conditions. I don't know the details but at least that is something. However, our community has arrived in the state of NH suffering an extreme trauma and hardship experience while in Somali or other respective countries. Upon arrival they have entered a society whose language and culture is very different from their own. Back in the refugee camps they knew what kind of life they were going to face in the USA but they have chosen to carry on having one extremely important motive in mind. Education for their children. That is the only dream that they come with. They consider themselves as a lost generation but they have one plan that at least their children will have an education. You are their community leaders and you are their main medium to turn their dream into reality. At this moment the School District Special Education Coordinator and Coordination of School and Community Relations are doing their best to fulfill that dream. In keeping in mind that we are from different cultures, especially with the education and discipline system, we can all imagine that such a task is not going to be an easy one. Tonight you have seen a lot of native English speakers who were born and raised here complaining about the education budget cut. What do you think about those who arrive here who don't speak English? They need special attention and we are talking about less teachers and that is really going to be very difficult. That is direct education. From the teacher to the student but also our parents need to be educated because we are from different education systems and that is what this office is doing. They are organizing on a regular basis and meeting and educating the parents to make them part of the system. That is really successful. They are becoming part of the system and they are trying to help the school. Unfortunately they cannot help their children. It is very difficult because they don't know the language and they don't know how to write. Finally, our kids are at a most sensitive time. It is a very transitional time. They need help today not five years from now. These few years are shaping their future. I am hoping that they will say 10 years from now that they got help when they needed it. For the sake of our City please do not cut funds for the school budget and other projects. Look at this as a testament. As other people said dropouts and significant consequences will cost to the City more than what we save today. Thank you very much.

Brendan McQuaid, 256 N. Bay Street, Manchester stated:

I am here to speak in favor of the Mayor because I enjoy an underdog. I would like to speak for the Mayor because I don't think anyone has given him the credit that he deserves. He ran on a campaign of reducing taxes and that is what he is delivering on. I know he ran on that campaign because I did his ads for him and he is not practicing political rhetoric here. He is practicing action, which is very rare these days. He is actually doing what he said he would do and we are all in panic over it. I am a 1997 graduate of Central High School and listening to most of these people today I can't believe I survived. I can't believe I graduated and made it because I am sure we didn't spend them what we spend now on education. I went on to college in Boston and I ended up coming back here for a big part because I have seen the way things work down in Massachusetts. I have seen that just throwing money at a situation does not solve anything. I came back to the NH values that I love of lower taxes, more local control, and better efficiency in our government. I feel that if we do this we can have a

lower budget and still serve our children. The schools aren't going to shut down. The City is not going to shut down. We are going to be okay just as we always have been. Thank you very much.

Gavin McDaniel, 693 Maple Street, Manchester stated:

My family moved to Manchester in the summer of 2001. Previously we used to live in Wakefield, MA and when it was time to find a new place for my family to live, my wife and I spent a lot of time researching where to move to. We checked everywhere from northern Rhode Island to southern, central and northern Massachusetts and New Hampshire – anywhere that was still within community distance of Boston. The criteria we used to decide where we wanted to move was simple. What was the cost of living and how was the school system. Manchester, NH had the best school system of any of the places that we could afford to live. We moved to the City where we knew no one because of the schools and last year after we outgrew our part we moved to Maple Street because my two boys only criteria in where they wanted to live was they wanted to stay within their same schools. My oldest is in the top 20 for his class at Central and volunteers at the Library. My youngest plays string bass in the orchestra and electric bass in the jazz band at Hillside. Music and the arts are a huge part of our family and while I wish my kids sometimes were bigger sports fans, I don't want to see the sport budget cut. I am strongly opposed to any budget cuts that will negatively impact the youth of Manchester. Thank you.

Sam Bennett, 61 Cambridge Court, Manchester stated:

I am proud to be a senior here in this high school, Manchester Memorial. I am here to talk about briefly three things. One being the possibility of freshman sports being cut. I personally feel that freshman sports help further involve newcoming students into the school. It allows them to build a bond with other students and share common interests and also I do think it helps prepare them for later on in the workforce with teamwork and taking on leadership and also just further preparation with morals and helping build good traits. Secondly, the teachers and administrators of this school I feel have been nothing but supportive and helpful to all of the students here. Many teachers go out of their way not only to just help the student learn a given subject but also in college preparations, funding adequate scholarships and just any problems that that student might face. Further on that, too bad he is not here because then he would understand why my homework isn't done for tomorrow but Arthur Adamakos, we may not have the best relationship but I feel that or I am constantly being told that he was one of the people who helped turn this school around from a school that labeled unsafe for children and kind of a hazard place to a fine, upstanding high school. Lastly, I would just like to talk about MCTV and how the budget is not exactly including it. I feel that not only is it a great source for all of the people in the City of Manchester to understand what is going on but also for just anyone to have the people of the City know who they are. This past November it was my first year voting and not only did it help me to understand who I should be voting for and what is going on but I feel all of those people who were trying to go out there for candidacy it helped them for no price at all to

express themselves to the City and who they are and what they are trying to accomplish and how they feel they can make the City better. I am glad to see that we have a lot of supporters here tonight. I believe Joe Kelly Levasseur is here to show his interest with MCTV and I think that is a great thing. Also I would like to thank everyone for sticking around. I am going to go home and make a sandwich. Thank you all.

Chris Langella, 373 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester stated:

I was born in Manchester and graduated from Manchester Memorial in 1982. A little plug for nostalgia, that was the last year that Memorial won the high school state title and I had a small role to play so I figured I would plug that for anyone who remembers. I live over on South Mammoth Road and I bought a house in 1989. At the time my property taxes were about \$1,500. Today they are about \$5,100. I haven't really been a vocal participant in City government but I am a little disappointed actually with the turnout, not only at the last election for the Mayor...what was there 23,000 votes or something and half the people didn't even show up. Some people say well this is representative of the City. You had what, 800 people here and you really had an homogenous 20:1 probably against the budget so you really have probably 25,000 people who didn't vote or maybe 30,000 and then you have another 21,000 people who aren't here tonight so that leaves you 14 Aldermen who have to use good judgement around principles and how you guys want to spend the taxpayer's money. The other thing I am not hearing a lot of tonight are any positive alternatives from the homogenous status quo people who have vested interest in the status quo. Where are the alternatives? If you are paying guys a lot of money like the Superintendent over \$100,000 and Assistants and all of that you would think they would come up with positive alternatives to become more efficient. I don't hear any of that. It is always more money, more money. Well how about better management and where are the voices from inside the status quo who say we want better management. I have been in the private sector for 20 years and I work in a performance based industry in sales and if you don't perform and you don't get the results you get held accountable for it. I don't see that kind of accountability in the school system. I have two daughters. They are both in preschool now but they will be going to Green Acres. It seems like a great school so I am looking forward to that and I am going to start participating more in local government. I would like to hear more ideas coming from within the system and I don't hear that right now. Also in the last five or six years along with property tax increases, obviously insurance has gone way up and health co-pays have gone way up. I was paying 20% maybe as a co-pay years ago and now I am paying 60% and I don't hear anybody talking about going up against the teacher's unions or what have you and negotiating these contracts. Not just the teacher's unions but also the public employee unions. I mean they have had a good gig but when does the public sector have to start making sacrifices. I used to pay 20% and now I pay 60%. Everybody in my company pays 60% and we are just supposed to say okay we are going to subsidize everybody else so they only have to pay 20% now? They have to start making some sacrifices and I think all of you guys need to start playing hardball with a lot of these contracts. How about addressing special education and getting psychiatry out of the public schools and making it a higher

standard to get kids coded? I don't hear anything about that. These are the kind of things and I am going to be more of a vocal participant because I have been paying taxes for 16 years on my property and I see not a lot of participation and I also see a lot of partisanship. You see a lot of the people here tonight when the place was packed you could tell it was homogenous and it was 20:1 against but again it was a small representation. I will just close by saying the other things I would like to hear from the Aldermen is get the politics out of the public schools. We all know that the union dues are going to the unions who are supporting 99:1 Democrats. I am an Independent and I don't want any partisanship and I also don't want my kids being indoctrinated in school about George Bush or Bill Clinton or anybody and I am hearing a lot of that stuff to and you can see it in the tone of a lot of the speakers tonight. I hope you guys can stick to business and start addressing the issues long-term that are going to bring some sanity to the budget. We didn't even bring up pensions. That is another thing. If Social Security is good enough for me it should be good enough for all public employees as well. So start addressing the real issues. Your constituents are the taxpayers, not the special interest groups. Thank you.

Siobhan Tautkus, 132 Arah Street, Manchester stated:

Fortunately for you by now I have forgotten half of what I wanted to say so I will make one quick point. Two things in life that are absolutely certain with the exception of Manchester, NH, there is an absolute third certainty that as soon as the School Department does not get every nickel that they have requested they are going to lay-off teachers and it is never just a couple of teachers. It is always a lot of teachers. Always. With absolute certainty you know that that is going to be the very first thing that comes out of their mouth when we talk about not increasing to the extent that they would like us to. It is discouraging and it is disheartening and it is really hard to believe as a business person that in \$143 million budget there are no other monies to be found and no process that could be improved that would result in any savings and not one expenditure that can be cut of any particular value that would create a more realistic and reasonable budget for the taxpayers of Manchester. It is \$143 million and in any other entity I can assure you a savings would be cut and found before they would lay people off as their first line of defense. I realize that the people in this room are not the people that can dictate where the money is spent but I would like to suggest that if that is the very best that these administrators can do with all of the advanced degrees that they possess in that administrative building, that this is the very best that they can do in terms of cost savings then I would like to find a way to have this Board request that the 38 teachers be left in the classrooms and they demand that the 38 administrators be let go and that results in moving back to Ash Street and savings of additional monies that could be spent down the road for more realistic purposes. Thank you.

Robert Mercier, 270 Poplar Street, Manchester stated:

Before I get started I would like to give these pictures to the Mayor. I am a 19 year old senior at Central High School and I have been playing lacrosse there since it started. We are not fortunate enough to have any kind of real facility. We play at Beech Street School, which

is where the football team practiced for a very long time so there is no grass there. In the pictures that the Mayor is looking at and I hope all of the Aldermen get a chance to see them to, we play with glass on the ground. It never gets picked up. We also have irrigation covers that are cracked or metaled over that one of our very good players a couple of seasons back was running down the field and slipped on one and tore something in his ankle and was done for the season. So pretty much any time anyone gets hit onto the ground they have to wonder whether they are going to come up with their leg cut or grass or rock in their leg, which brings me to my next point. Gill Stadium, which I am sure you are tired of hearing about but it is brand-new and just renovated. Why make us play on a mudpit when we can go play at Gill and take up less room than the outfield of the baseball game. I guess that's it. Thank you.

David Washington, 71 O'Malley Street, Manchester stated:

I am an 18 year old senior at Central High School. I am also very interested in the lacrosse field. I am one of the three captains of the lacrosse team. As you know, being a lacrosse player in Manchester, whether it be a boys team or girls team you are obligated to raise your own money seeing as the City doesn't fund us. So each player is obligated to raise \$200 for this season, last season and all previous seasons since we were recognized as a sport. Each season we raise this money just so we can have a season, not to mention on top of that we have to do our own fundraising for regulation equipment, helmets, team jerseys and also to have a jacket that says I go to Central and play lacrosse. That also goes for Memorial and West. I just want to reiterate that fact that we don't have a fine facility to practice at. We do practice at Beech Street and it is rather dangerous. There have been multiple times when kids have fallen and gotten cut or haven't had the medical treatment they needed because the trainers aren't on site at practices. They are only allowed to be at games. I wanted to mention that there are people that care about lacrosse. Although some of you may not care to fund it, there are other people who care about it. Me and Robert help the Police Athletic League with the young teams. There are a lot of young kids coming up that care about lacrosse and a lot of parents that care about lacrosse. They are currently putting together Lacrosse Boosters so parents are getting involved and hopefully there will be a future. Not having lacrosse next year won't effect either one of us personally but it will effect our teammates and those future players that we in the past three years have tried to put down building blocks or a foundation so there will be a program so we can compete against better teams in the state such as Pinkerton, Derry, or Nashua or Bedford. I hope that you consider maybe not next year but maybe within the next few years funding lacrosse and actually taking it as a serious sport. There are many people that love lacrosse as I love lacrosse and I hope to play lacrosse in college. I also encourage you if you haven't seen a lacrosse game to tomorrow night there is going to be a contest between Central and West. You can some see a great game between two teams who put all of their efforts into raising money so they can play a sport they love. Thank you.

Rick Maynard, 29 Prospect Street, Manchester stated:

I thank you all for the opportunity to be able to talk to you all. First I expect each and every one of you and the members of the School Board and the other departments to try to save the revenues and spend this money efficiently in whatever means are available to them. I came because I have three children in Central High School. In the period of time that my kids went from elementary school to middle school to high school the schools have improved immensely during that time period. I don't think they are at where I would like to see them but the improvement in the schools...the teachers have always been great regardless of the resources and I am just concerned when I hear that there is a potential budget cut in the school system that it is going to effect my kids and their education and that is why I came this evening. I am not into the specifics of whether the administration is top heavy or whatever is being spent. This is going to effect my kids and their education and their future and there is not a single thing in this world that is more important to me than my children. The Library has been referenced a lot this evening and I want to say that when they are given homework where do I go if I don't have the resources at my house to do the research for their homework? They go to the Library so that concerns me as well. I was really...I guess I want to say that during this election here in Manchester I kind of had a dream of what things were going to be like. I have seen the City improve immensely. I can walk across town. The schools have improved. Business is picking up. The Verizon. The Fisher Cat stadium. Just the whole general atmosphere. There is building going on. The City is just...I walk across town and I feel comfortable doing it. The Mayor has proposed a budget with a tax cut and there were two ways to accomplish this task. One is cutting services or consolidating services. The other is revenues and I am hoping that from the money that has been spent to develop and get this City where it is at now that this would be generating revenues and we would be seeing some savings. I know these things don't happen overnight but that is kind of what...I would like to see the services increasing and the taxes...actually I fantasize about no taxes but that is never going to be real and we have to pay for common services for the good of all. At the close I mean all of the testimony I listened to this evening, a lot of it boils down to the significance of the tax cut right now is really minimal. When I hear numbers between \$15.30 and \$15.38 and it is going to be somewhere between \$.30 to \$.70 per \$1,000 I mean this amount per person is rather small but the effects on the services that are made available to the citizens of this City when you multiply that by the population is rather large. I would love to see the taxes going down and I would love to see you all accomplish that. It might just be a little too fast too soon. I want to thank you for this evening and the last closing thing is you can spend the money now – a little, or you can spend a lot later. That seems to be one of the themes this evening.

Peter Sorrentino, 285 Milford Street, Manchester stated:

As many of you on the Aldermanic Board know...I have chewed your ear off a lot in the past but this is actually the first time I have spoken publicly. Of course like everyone else I came with a lot of ideas and a set of bullets that I will not talk to you about now because a lot of the things have been stated. I handed you something that I will go over very, very quickly. I only see...it is pretty simple what you need to do. You need to cut taxes and increase

services. What is the problem? There are only a couple of ways to do that. One is to make the City a better place so you get a lot more revenue coming in from people who are happy to pay it and I am not sure exactly what – strip malls we seem to be very good at that. Make sure you have the appropriate amount of revenue from them so you can decrease taxes on your constituents. The other way to do it is efficiencies. That is what our Mayor has talked a lot about. For 10 years I flew around this country and Europe helping big business become more efficient. That was my job. The intriguing thing about doing that is that you can never do it looking at budget numbers. You can take a budget and strip it down to every single \$1,000 mark and all you are looking at are numbers. It doesn't solve the problem. What you need to do is figure out how within a department and the only people who can really do it at the end of the day are the people in the department, how to do that function better. How can we do it more efficiently? The biggest problem governments typically have is that they do not recognize the differences that businesses have recognized for a couple of decades around the fact of labor costs versus infrastructure costs versus technology costs. Labor costs do nothing but keep going up. Infrastructure costs tend to go down a bit in terms of trucks and equipment and technology costs tend to go down fairly rapidly. The City is backward in that way, as are most governments. It is to be looked at. In any case if you want to cut the budget start looking at the different areas and compare them to comparables. How are we doing compared to the comparables? Well I started looking for data. I have been looking for data for years as some of you know. There is great data on the schools. That is what you are holding. Unfortunately the data on the schools, collected by the state and this came from the state. Everything you have in your hand came from the state. The data from the schools doesn't include administrator data so it is hard for me to determine that but as you heard from two other people in the room who have spoken so far tonight, there is some data. Manchester spends approximately \$7,400 per student. The best school in the district spends about \$6,400. Manchester ranks very highly – in the top 7% of schools in terms of cost per student. We are very economical. If you break it out into elementary, middle school and high school on the next page, there is no district, none in the state that spends less per student in high school. I am not saying this is good or bad. All I am saying is that any business in any organization when you go to look to cut you look for things that aren't running very efficiently. It is hard to imagine that our high schools aren't running exceptionally efficiently if there is no district in the state that spends less per student. Zero. None. Elementary schools are almost as good. If you look at the elementary schools I have listed on the sheet the top largest districts. The 11 largest districts. I took Manchester and then threw 10 in with that and got 11. The 11<sup>th</sup> largest districts as far as elementary schools go, Manchester is third from best. Hudson and Salem spend a little bit less per student than Manchester. Nashua spends more. Timberland, Merrimack, Dover, Londonderry and Concord spend more. Concord spends quite a bit more up to Keene, which spends dramatically more per elementary student. So what did this lead me to believe? Interestingly enough given everything you read in the paper and given what I hear from various Aldermen our schools are very lean. They run really efficiently in general. Now does that mean there is nothing there to be saved? Well I am sure you could find something



but my God you are going to have to work really hard. One other fact I will just point out. I got here around 6:30 PM. I was seated in a seat that says reserved for department heads and/or School Committee members. I believe there were two rows of those seats. I don't believe anybody was in the second row. There was myself and a few other residents. In the first row I do believe there were a few department heads. I could be wrong. As a citizen, this is insulting. It is insulting that they are not here. I think several of them were. I know Mr. Martineau spoke and I believe he has done a good job from what I have read in terms of finding efficiencies. I don't believe that that many of them were in the back of the room. In any case there were 10 seats not used all night and there were other people who could have come in...in fact on our way in other people were leaving. Thank you very much for the opportunity. Also the teachers think they don't make a lot for the contributions they give and I think that is true but I would have to say for what the Aldermen are compensated, they take the cake. None of you...you all do a great job and I know everybody here is sincere in what they do and I thank you for your time and effort and energy on this. Thank you.

Kimberly Ndombe, 145 Alladain Street, Manchester stated:

I am a Junior at Central High School and I just think it is a really bad idea to cut a lot of teachers. I think that it was great that a lot of at risk students spoke, students from STAY and Ombudsman but I am a student from the other side of the spectrum. I am actually an Honor student at Central and I already felt the effects of not having a lot of teachers at our school. Last year I signed up for Algebra II, Level III, which is a course that any kid who is preparing to go to college would want to take and I actually got denied from the course because there weren't enough teachers who taught the course and they couldn't fit it into my schedule. I had to pay \$750 so that I could take the course at Concord Community Technical College. It is lucky for me that I had the money to pay that but there are a lot of other kids who probably don't and it is not fair to them that they should be denied for a simple course, a college prep course, and a lot of us are looking to get into competitive colleges and we can't even get into a simple course like that. I think that we should really think about some other way. I think cutting teachers is a bad idea.

Ray Buckley, 24 Gabrielle Street, Manchester stated:

I have been sitting out back and fading in and out of consciousness tonight. It kind of looked like the Last Supper here. Not that I would suggest that my Alderman, the best Alderman, Alderman DeVries is close to Jesus but compared to the rest of you pretty close. I once served on the Board of Aldermen and in fact sat on that stage when we had over 2,000 people coming before us on a budget. I also was privileged to serve this neighborhood in the NH House for 16 years. I currently serve as the Chair of the Manchester City Democrats. As many of you know it is not too often that I come before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. In fact, I think this is only the third time since I left the Board over a decade ago. I feel compelled to rise tonight to express my concerns about what I see is happening to our hometown. For the first time a political party has injected itself into the City budget process. For the first time a political party has produced yard signs and street corner sign wavers,

many of whom are imported from out of town, to support the Guinta tax cut as if he and he alone has the only voice here on this Board. Now I am not sure why the Republican party chose to go down this road because they know that I could easily have Guinta Supports Dirty Schools or Guinta Supports other outrageous claims and we could put them up in 400 or 500 homes. So these sorts of political partisan pre-election activities I just don't think have a place in the deliberative process here in the budget. For the first time a political party has generated e-mails that call for the Aldermen to pressure for a specific vote. Folks, we have seen this dangerous practice before and we have seen the result. The decision to bring Washington style partisan attack politics to the City budget process I think is deplorable. At a time when elected officials should be working together, the City Republican Committee has chosen to inject fierce partisan attack politics. What a disservice to the people of Manchester. The Republican threatens and demands that this Board pass the budget without any deliberation, without discussion, without any seriousness that a City budget deserves is simply outrageous. To threaten any of you over a so-called tax cut for a grand total of \$35 per household, which amounts to less than bringing the family to the movies is kind of ridiculous. Aldermen, the local Republicans attempt to make a circus out of this process, as they do that you should keep in mind that the families of Manchester are depending on you to be serious and to make your decision on what is best. Not who yells the loudest or who has the best cheering squad that is paid for by their consultant sitting in the front row, it is really who are your constituents. Who are your constituents? Not the kid from Pelham wearing the Guinta T-shirt running around. It is the people that actually depend on you, the students from Manchester and not the students from 40 miles away that come here telling you how you should then vote. I would also like to point out that Manchester is a City of over 110,000 residents and the author of this budget was elected by a little more than 9% of those residents. That does not make a mandate. 90% of the City did not choose the current Mayor to hold his position. Now while an Alderman I made several suggestions to cut the budget and I encourage you to do so as well. I suggest that you start in the Mayor's Office because let he who wants to cut so badly be the first cut. Thank you.

Lily Mesa, 17 West Street, Manchester stated:

I know it is really late. I have been here five hours waiting to speak. I am going to say the same thing that everybody said before but I have a name for that. My son, Danny, goes to Central High School. He is a freshman. He couldn't wait to play football with the Central team. He was so excited about it. Then he went on wrestling and track and so on. He is always playing sports and if you approve this budget he is not going to be able to do so because not only do I have to get him special clothing and shoes that are expensive but if on top of that I have to pay for a private program for him to go I wouldn't be able to do so because I am from a low income family and from our community, from the minority people, I don't think it is possible that the kids go to any after school program or any sports if the schools don't have the funds for that. Also talking about my daughters, my oldest daughters, they went to school here. I moved here with them when they were 5 and 6 years old. They went to special ESL programs and they have gone so far now. My daughter is graduating

from beauty school and she is going to have her own business and my other daughter is going to nursing school. If it weren't for that, they wouldn't be able to do that. Again, I am talking about all of the people from the minority community who need these services and also MCTV. I think it is important to have the opportunity to participate in a program like that because that is the only way we can be heard and we can talk to our communities in our own languages and have our own programs. Thank you.

Catherine O'Brien, North Sutton stated:

I am on the NH State Council on the Arts. I am the Arts and Education Coordinator for the state. I have worked in Manchester for more than 15 years. I worked at the Girl's Club back when it was in the inner City on Chestnut Street for 10 years and I worked at UNH-Manchester and sometimes I actually fantasize about retiring in one of the condos looking over the baseball field but I wanted to come and I stayed very late. I live in North Sutton, ½ hour north of Concord, because I care so much. I love Manchester and I have been watching it for many, many years and you have grown in so many ways. The arts have played a huge role in revitalizing your City. The arts are essential to learning and to engagement. They save the lives of many, many students and you need to know they are an asset. You shouldn't cut an asset. Someone like Chris Martin who other districts would die for is an asset. She has the ability to write grants. She has the ability to coordinate. Your arts are very well known. They are highly valued throughout the state. You have model award winning programs. Programs that are partnerships with the Currier Museum. You are the first community to have a 21<sup>st</sup> century after school grant that is focused on the arts. These are all assets to your community and we did recently a fall arts and education conference in your City. We choose to come here for two years because of your arts. Do you know who helped us throughout the entire weekend? Chris Martin. Friday through Sunday, day and night, she was our liaison with the community. This is an asset. Just to bring an outside perspective so that you are aware of just what valuable pieces to life in your City and for every student here that you have. It was very important to me, I feel passionately about this, that you hear how wonderful your City is and how much you have grown and I hope you don't cut the arts.

Joe Kelly Levasseur, 866 Elm Street, Manchester stated:

It is 11:50 and I have been here since 6:30 PM and I want to say thank you to the Mayor and all of the Aldermen and all of the department heads who were here sitting in seats around the room and all of the School Board members who were here. I just want everybody to know that a lot of people were here and that person who was talking before was blowing smoke. Everybody that needed to be here was here tonight. I was a former Aldermen. I came here to praise the Aldermanic Board. I wanted to say thank you for supporting Mayor Guinta's ideas for consolidation. I know that there were a couple of good Aldermen, Alderman Lopez and Alderman O'Neil and most of the Aldermen on this Board worked together to consolidate the Traffic Department with the Highway Department. I thought it was a very good move. It will save money over the long run and the way the Board is working together

seems to be in the best interest of the City and I want to applaud the Aldermen for your work. I also wanted to say...I wanted to thank Mayor Guinta for being a politician who ran on a promise to cut taxes and he has delivered that promise. It is now up to the Aldermen to decide whether or not there will be a tax cut or maybe a slight tax increase after you guys go through the whole budget process. I am a little disappointed in Ray Buckley, Chairman of the City Committee, for his statements in a partisan way. He says that the Republicans have thrown partisanship into this political process and I don't know if he is running the City Committee or not but I have a blue card that was sent out to the people of the City within the last day and it does say on it...it is a very partisan piece of paper. It is a blue card and it is signed by Ray Buckley from the City Democrat Committee and what will happen to the City of Manchester if you guys support Mayor Guinta's tax cut. So it is unfortunate that he doesn't even realize that a card with his own name was sent out and if anyone wants to see that card, they can tune in to my TV show. I will show it again next week and it is on there already. I want to thank the people in the City of Manchester who give me all of the information they do. I want to cover a couple of quick points. I do believe that the City of Manchester and the voters of Manchester have issued you people on the Aldermanic Board and the Mayor a mandate. They voted for a man who ran on a tax cut. As you all know, gas prices are through the roof. Oil and gas prices for businesses are just ridiculous and those bites are taking a bite out of a lot of people's pockets and where can we save some money? Obviously the Aldermanic Board can do that for us. I want to say also thank you, I know that this Board is going to support Frank Guinta's pledge to put more police officers on the street. This Board has done a very good job on that issue. There has not been any political partisanship on consolidation. There has not been any political partisanship on Police and Fire and Safety in the City and I commend all of you on that. I know I have been tough on some of you guys on my TV show but when it comes down to politics and what you guys are doing I have to tell you the way things are going I am very impressed with the way the debate has been going on at City Hall and the way the meetings are going and the way you guys are being allowed to debate and get along on that Board. I think the most important issue here that you people have to talk about amongst yourselves is the credibility of the School District. Now I sat on the Board six years ago and it is an issue of credibility. If they gave you a line item budget like you get from the City side, I think you guys would have an easier time making decisions. If you had that in your hands then you could see where the money was being spent and then you could believe them. I think this comes down to credibility and honesty and if you guys could look at those numbers closer you could determine whether the number was real or whether they need an increase or whether they need to stay the same. Lastly, although I have had my problems with MCTV in the past, there is no question that MCTV is without question one of the greatest things that this City has as an asset. If I didn't have MCTV I wouldn't have a TV show. Now I don't want you guys to decide to take them off the air because you want to get rid of my TV show and I know you wouldn't because MCTV is a great thing. It keeps an eye on government and it keeps you guys honest and I hope we will find a way to make sure that money stays in there.

I don't believe that the sky is falling and I think you guys are going to do a great job and we will all come out looking really good in the end. I want to thank you all and good night.

Gerry Thibideau, 103 Bow Street, Manchester stated:

I have been living in Manchester for 32 years and paying taxes here for 32 years and I won't go through all of that. It has gone from \$800 to \$6,000. I had a lot of notes on things that I wanted to talk to you about. I crossed them off and crossed them off and crossed them off. I am not going to repeat them. One of the few suggestions that I am going to bring that hasn't been brought to the table yet is on the school side what you may want to do is look at that school budget and segregate it. Have your school department on one side and your administration on the other side. Have them separate that budget and then see where the numbers come in afterwards. The other thing I want to bring up is streamlining. If you are going to streamline a budget that means cuts. If you are going to cut, somebody is going to lose their job. I have been working for years and you have been working for years and all of us have a lost a job at one time or another. Nothing is guaranteed. This is not Japan. You are not guaranteed that you will have a job for life. You are guaranteed to have a job as long as they need you. If they don't need you, you don't have a job anymore. Another point...oh that one has already been talked about. The scare tactics. You know we have a gentleman that we pay an awful lot of money for to do his job and if the best he can come up with is a series of scare tactics is he really doing his job? As yourselves that question. Or is he just sitting on his hands trying to scare everybody so he can get his way. Everybody says it is your responsibility but it is everybody's responsibility in the City, not just yours. When you hire someone to do their job, they do their job. If they can't do their job, you find somebody who can. Ladies and gentlemen I commend you for staying up this late. I really do. I had to go out for air a few times myself. Good night.

Robin Basil Bieundo stated:

I had no intention of speaking this evening. I am the wife of Mike Bieundo who is out in the lobby right now and doesn't know I am speaking. I am the daughter of Jesus Christ, my lord and savior and I am most importantly my mother's daughter. My mother is in heaven tonight and if she knew I was going to be sitting here while someone publicly spoke and I wasn't able to defend myself she would say that is not my daughter so I am speaking and I had no intention to speak but I am speaking in memory of my mother. Frank Guinta is my Mayor. I have trudged this 98 lb. body through rain and snow and hail and people throwing tomatoes at me and people doing obscene gestures to me and people swearing at me and I have also trudged this 98 lb. body up and down our City streets talking to taxpayers week in and week out volunteering on my own time for that man. Not getting one cent of money but because I believe in him. I helped get this man elected. I am proud he is my Mayor and I can't sit here while someone who I forgive feels he has the right to splatter my name amongst a group of 25 people I have never met before. My name is Robin Bieundo. I am Gloria Basil's daughter and my mother would be damn proud of me tonight for standing up here tonight defending my honor. I am a property owner and a taxpayer. I have lived here in

Manchester for seven years. After six consecutive years of tax increases, at the stroke of midnight I am proud to stay I am glad it is time for a change. I am proud to say in front of this whole Board of Aldermen and you all know who I am because I come to every Board of Aldermen meeting, Republican and Democrat tonight, I am proud to say that as an American young woman I was able to witness democracy at its best in this room tonight. Everything I have learned that is good and proper and wonderful I learned from teachers. My ability to speak in public. My ability to speak from my conviction in my heart and soul and my ability to rain, snow, sleet, thunder, lightening rain, no umbrella, umbrella, whatever, tomatoes thrown at me and obscenities thrown at me, whatever, I am proud to say that I did it all for this man and I know when I go to sleep at night this man is looking out for the citizens of Manchester's best interest. I am not here to badmouth anybody. I am proud of the teachers who showed up tonight. God bless you. Some of the best things I learned in my life came from teachers who showed up tonight. I was born in Nashua. I now reside in Manchester. Frank Guinta is my Mayor and I am proud of it. Thank you so much for your time and God bless each and every one of you and Mr. Buckley, I forgive you.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated these are written communications that we received and we have distributed copies to the Aldermen so we are just going to reference them.

Debbie Collins, 476 Spruce Street, expressing shock and concern with cuts to the PASS Program.

Pat Kelly, 286 North Street, concerned with the recent Airport name change.

Robert J. Daley, 4634 Brown Avenue, stating that Manchester has been a city that works and cautioning the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that decreasing city budgets without due respect to the city's future could be a regrettable decision.

Karen O'Shaughnessy, Ward 4 resident, stating that she is a third generation born to Manchester homeowner and teacher who would like to see taxes go down but not at the expense of schools and other services the departments of the city provide.

Henry J. Aliberti Jr., 345 Edward J. Roy Drive, concerned with the loss of flexibility within the Mayor's budget to address expected elementary student enrollments, district response to city and public information requests and District in Need of Improvement efforts and imploring Aldermanic members to support the District's proposed \$148 million school budget.

Clem Lemire, former Superintendent of Parks, expressing appreciation of the Board's efforts and asking the Board to bite the bullet and continue to face the City's overall needs for the present and future.

Joline Manseau, 175 Fieldcrest Road, concerned about a proposed transfer of school nurses and fearing that if the Mayor's proposed budget cuts are passed and city and school services are cut as a result that Manchester will no longer be a desirable city to reside in.

Denise Burton, 381 Hermit Road, voicing concern regarding the Mayor's proposed FY07 school budget

Shawne & Linda Deary, 149 Vandora Drive, stating that they are very concerned and disappointed in the FY07 budgeting for the school district and providing a list of issues.

Jeff Klein, 103 N. Adams Street, offering support to the Manchester Library system.

John Wood, Friends of Valley Cemetery Chair, stating the need for the \$300,000 for continued restoration at Valley Cemetery.

Leslee M. Stewart, Vice Chair of the Board of School Committee, supporting the school's budget.

Norm Manseau, 175 Fieldcrest Road, commending the Board for trying to keep the taxes under control and asking to fully fund the school budget and increase school nurses pay.

Joyce Palmer, Manchester YMCA Community Outreach, expressing support for the STAY Program.

Frank Bass, 103 Hubbard Street, urging the Board to consider serious ramifications of the proposed budget and asking for support of the Board of School Committee's recommended budget.

Donna Dugan, 111 Wheelock Street, urging the Board to override Mayor Guinta's proposed budget for FY07 stating on the City side \$113 million will negatively impact services and \$143 million for the school would prove disastrous.

William Dugan, 111 Wheelock Street, urging the Board to override Mayor Guinta's proposed budget for FY07.

Happy Tkacs, 437 East High Street, writing in strong support of the alternative education programs.

Maylia Parker, 54 Allen Street, concerned with cuts in library services and expressing strong support for the library.

Kathy Erskine, 252 Harrison Street, registering support for the original budget request from the School District.

Joan Mannon, 272 Varney Street, writing in regards to the School District. She wants the taxes at the same rate.

Eleanor Moyer, 55 Greenview Drive, writing with regards to the public library and supporting trying to maintain what is needed to keep the Library open and protected from vagrants.

Claudette Janelle, 288 Alexander Drive, writing with regards to the school budget and giving substantial reasons for it.

Mayor Guinta advised that all wishing to speak having been heard, the comments presented shall be taken under consideration with actions by the Board and reports by the Committee on Finance to be made at a later date and a motion to adjourn is in order.

On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Gatsas it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk